

26th July 1952] [Sri K. P. Gopalan]

announce some measures immediately for improving the lot of labour. But he has not stated anything as to what he is going to do for the working class in this State. So, I am not going to withdraw my cut motion."

MR. SPEAKER:—"I am now going to put the cut motion to the vote of the House. The question is—

'That the allotment of Rs. 18,27,100 under Demand XXIV—Labour including Factories, be reduced by Rs. 100.'

The cut motion was lost.

MR. SPEAKER:—"I am now going to put the main motion to the vote of the House. The question is—

'That the Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 18,27,100 under Demand XXIV—Labour including Factories.'

The Demand was carried and the Grant made.

(2) DEMAND XIII—JAILS.

* THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I move—

'That the Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,23,56,000 under Demand XIII—Jails.'

"It will be noticed, Sir, that the Demand for 1952-53 is more than the Demand for 1951-52, which was for Rs. 117.30 lakhs. It is however less than the Revised Estimate for 1951-52 which came to Rs. 126.88 lakhs. The increase in the estimate is mainly due to the larger expenditure anticipated on account of the dietary charges incurred in jails and to the larger provision made for jail manufactures on account of the increase in the cost of raw materials.

"I may mention at the outset that the policy of the Government with regard to the administration of jails is to reform the convicts so that when they are released from the jails they may become good citizens and lead a peaceful and industrious life without breaking the laws of the land. With this end in view they are given general education and are taught industries like carpentry, tailoring, weaving, etc., which would be useful to them after their release.

"Accommodation and classification.—Adult convicts are segregated from adolescents and children, male convicts from female convicts and habituals from casuals. There are separate jails for habituals and for casuals, a special jail for women, two borstal schools for adolescents and certified schools under Government and private managements for children. Prisoners are classified into two classes according to their social standing and mode of life and are allowed privileges appropriate to the class to

[Sri K. P. Kuttikrishnan Nair] [26th July 1952]

which they belong in the matter of diet, clothing, bedding, newspapers, magazines, letters, interviews, etc. I may mention for the information of the hon. Members, a few of the important amenities given to prisoners in jails.

4-20
p.m.

Regarding Class I prisoners they are allowed to buy fruits and other supplementary things for their diet. They are allowed to have their own clothing, bedding, toilet and other things. They get better facilities in respect of letters and interviews. They are also allowed to subscribe for newspapers and other periodicals approved by the Government.

Prison labour and industries.—Special attention is paid by Government to promote the interest of the labour population. The main object of prison labour is the reformation of prisoners and hence purposeless and non-productive forms of labour are avoided. Jail labour is divided into three main classes, viz., hard, medium and light, and the prisoners are allowed the appropriate class of labour on the advice of the medical officer. As I have already mentioned, prisoners are taught industries like carpentry, tailoring, weaving, dyeing, etc., which will stand them in good stead for earning their livelihood after their release. As far as possible prisoners are allotted work according to what they have been accustomed to outside the jail. Jail labour is also hired out, for Government works. For instance, prisoners are employed for the excavation of canals in the Tungabhadra Project Works and a separate camp jail is being run for the purpose. If any prisoner wants change of labour it is always open to him to make representation to the Superintendent and to get it changed. Gratuity is allowed as a sort of inducement for extra outturn of work. There is also a modified earning scheme in the Central Jail, Coimbatore, and in the Central Jail, Vellore, under which prisoners working in the textile factory of the Coimbatore Jail and in the tailoring and boot section in the Central Jail, Vellore, are allowed tobacco in the form of cigarettes, beedies or tobacco for chewing, at a cost of one pie per day to be issued at the time of mid-day meal. This scheme has been introduced to act as an incentive to good work.

Medical and sanitary arrangement.—Proper medical and sanitary arrangements are provided in jails. There is a hospital attached to every central jail. Each central jail has a medical officer with assistant surgeons and compounders to assist him. Class II prisoners who are certified to be in real need of a pair of spectacles are supplied with a pair each at Government cost. Dental treatment is also given to prisoners either at their own cost or at Government cost according to the nature of the treatment given and class to which the prisoners belong. Prisoners suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis are sent to the Government Wellesley Sanatorium, Bellary. Prisoners suffering from leprosy are segregated in the leprosy annexes in the Central Jails at Salem and Tiruchirappalli. Mental defectives and criminal lunatics are sent to the Mental Hospital, Madras.

26th July 1952]

[Sri K. P. Kuttikrishnan Nair]

*“ Educational facilities.—*Educational facilities are provided in jails for such convicted prisoners as are capable of being benefited by them. There is an elementary school in each central jail with qualified teachers and every jail is equipped with a library. There are also reading rooms where daily newspapers and periodicals in different languages are supplied at Government cost and are made available to prisoners. Lights for reading are allowed till 9-30 p.m. in the night to those convicted for simple imprisonment and to such other educated prisoners as are considered by the Superintendent to be fit to receive this concession. Adult education on model lines is being imparted in the schools in several jails such as those in Coimbatore, Vellore, Tiruchirappalli, Rajahmundry, Bellary, etc., by teachers specially trained for the purpose. Steps are under way to introduce the scheme in other jails also. I may mention for the information of the hon. Members that about 80 per cent of the prisoners who go out from jails are literate while only 30 per cent of them are literate at the time of admission into jails.

*“ Religious and moral lectures and religious observances.—*Religious and moral lectures are allowed to all convicts and the lecturers confine their attention to prisoners of their own faith. Facilities for religious observances are also allowed in jails without any undue interference with religious practices and caste prejudices. For instance, prisoners are allowed to wear their religious symbols. They are permitted to perform their devotion in a quiet and orderly manner without undue interference with daily routine and discipline. Water for ablution and mats are provided in the case of Muslim prisoners. Prisoners are allowed to keep their religious fast if in the opinion of the medical officer they are in a fit state of health. They are not required to perform any labour other than such as may be necessary for the conduct of the internal management and domestic economy of the jail, on Sundays, and certain other days of religious importance like Pongal, Ramzan, Deepavali, Bakrid, Good-Friday, Onam, etc.

*“ Jail visitors.—*Besides *ex officio* visitors who are appointed from the Magisterial, Judicial, Medical, Health and Industries departments, members of the public are also appointed as non-official visitors for each jail. The non-official visitors are usually those who are members of the Discharged Prisoners Aid Society and have evinced some interest in the welfare of prisoners. Members of the Legislature are also appointed as special visitors to the jails. It is the duty of every visitor to satisfy himself that the law and rules regulating the management of the prisoners and prisons are duly carried out in jails, to visit all parts of the jails, to see all prisoners, to hear and enquire into any complaint that any prisoner may make to them.

*“ Population in jails —*The daily average population in jails for the year 1951 was 26,188 as against 25,514 of the previous year. This year there has been a fall in the population in jails as compared with last year.

[Sri K. P. Kuttikrishnan Nair] [26th July 1952]

"Aid on discharge.—Prisoners who are discharged are helped in several ways by the Discharged Prisoners Aid Society which receives an annual grant of Rs. 6,000 from Government for the purpose. After-care officers are also appointed. In 1951, 1,061 prisoners were assisted by the Discharged Prisoners Aid Society and after-care officers were appointed for 567 prisoners.

"I may on this occasion advert to the following amenities which have been recently granted to prisoners:—

(i) Under-trial prisoners are allowed the use of tobacco in subsidiary jails;

(ii) betels and nuts are allowed to condemned prisoners; and

(iii) the Republic Day of every year has been declared a jail holiday.

"Steps are under consideration to start pre-release work in jails. Under this arrangement prisoners who are due for release and who will know about it months in advance of the actual release, will receive some form of indoctrination in regard to their future conduct outside the jail. They will be given good advice as to how they should conduct themselves after release. For this purpose, trained Social and Welfare workers will get into touch with the prisoners a few months before their release and act as a liaison officer between the prisoner, his family, relatives, friends, prospective employer, and after-care officer and thus provide a valuable link between his life immediately before and after his release.

"In the Borstal School, Palayamkottai, the orientation programme is being carried on as an experimental measure. Under this programme a prisoner is made to understand soon after his conviction and sentence that the object of his incarceration is to reform and rehabilitate him as a useful and law-abiding member of the community at large, and that the jail officials are not merely his custodians but are his friends prepared to assist him in this task of rehabilitation. The willing co-operation of the prisoner is thus enlisted immediately after his admission. The prisoner is told of the various facilities offered for his education, medical treatment, vocational training, etc., and how he is provided better food and other kinds of amenities than an average citizen outside with a view to his improvement.

"Borstal schools.—A new Borstal school has been opened at A'iruram, Bellary in addition to the one at Palayamkottai. Elementary education is given in the Borstal schools up to VIII Standard. The chief industries taught in the school are weaving, tailoring, carpentry, blacksmithy, masonry, book-binding, agriculture, hand-made paper-making, etc. They are also taught to play band. The boys are selected for the various industries according to their aptitude.

"Probation of offenders.—The Madras Probation of Offenders Act is now in force throughout the State. There is a District

26th July 1952] [Sri K. P. Kuttikrishnan Nair]

Probation Officer for each district. In certain heavy districts additional District Probation Officers have also been appointed and there are at present 56 Probation Officers.

" In addition to furnishing pre-sentence report to Courts and supervising persons released by the Courts on probation, these Probation Officers do after-care work for children and adolescents released from Certified and Borstal schools and prisoners released under the Advisory Board Scheme. Their services are also utilized in matrimonial and other social matters.

" *Certified schools.*—There are at present 4 Government and 10 private certified schools in the State. The inmates are given general education up to VI Standard in the Senior Certified School and VIII Standard in the Junior Certified School as well as vocational training for use on their release. The educational authorities who inspected the schools were satisfied with the progress made. The industrial sections of schools were also inspected by the authorities concerned and were reported to be satisfactory. Selected inmates are deputed for training in the Agricultural Training Schools, Orathanad, Tanjore district. Some inmates who have special aptitude are also sent to outside schools for higher education. Discharged inmates are allowed to stay in the clubs attached to certain certified schools till they get employment.

" The Commander-in-Chief of India visited the Junior Certified School, Ranipet, and presented a shield in his name for inter-house football tournament. He was immensely satisfied with the hand of that school. Dr. Walter C. Reckless, United Nations Expert on Criminology, visited the Senior Certified School, Chingleput, and was impressed with the work done there.

" Attempts were made to train Headmasters of certified schools in basic education at Wardha but the officers deputed for training had to return on medical grounds before finishing their course. In January 1952, a special officer was appointed to introduce basic education in the Senior Certified School, Chingleput, in the first instance. His report has been received and is under examination.

" *Remand homes.*—There are Juvenile Courts and Remand Homes at Madras, Vellore, Madurai, Tiruchirappalli, Kozhikode, Salem and Coimbatore. These remand homes are run by the private institutions and the Government pay grants in respect of these remand homes. The question of opening remand homes at Vijayavada and Guntur is under consideration.

" *Conclusion.*—In 1950, the Government appointed a Committee consisting of officials and non-officials with a view to consider the question of improvements to be made in the administration of jails in this State and to suggest suitable reforms for this purpose. The Committee has concluded its labours and has submitted its report which contains several important recommendations calculated to improve the conditions of prisoners in jails and to underline the policy of reform and rehabilitation of prisoners. The report is now under print and the Government will consider the various proposals made by the Committee as soon as the report

[Sri K. P. Kuttikrishnan Nair] [26th July 1952]

is printed. It may not be out of place for me to mention on this occasion that Dr. Reckless, United Nations Expert on Criminology, who visited this State in November 1951, expressed the view that we in this State are already far ahead of the other States in India in the matter of jail administration. I might also take this opportunity to mention that at the Conference of the Inspectors-General of Prisons recently held at Bombay the work done in this State under probation and after-care was greatly commended by the other Inspectors-General and a resolution was also passed to the effect that a system of probation should be introduced in all States and Probation Officers appointed.

"Sir, in reviewing the administration of jails, one must bear in mind that each jail is a small township and the problems that arise there have to be solved by the officers in charge of the jails consistent with the laws of the land. Discipline has to be maintained in the prisons by the officers in charge besides attending to their daily duties. It is indeed a stupendous task. Sir, I will be certainly failing in my duty if I do not thank the persons who are responsible for running this administration. Therefore, Sir, allow me to express my thanks to the Inspector-General of Prisons, the Chief Inspector of Certified Schools and Vigilance Service and their staff and to record the appreciation of the Government, for the way in which they have borne the burden of administering the jails and other institutions in these difficult days. The staff have oftentimes to put up with provocations, indignities and hardships and even to face grave risks to life and it speaks volumes for their sense of devotion to duty and love of the country that they have acquitted themselves so well.

"Sir, I wish to clear a mistaken impression created in the minds of some hon. Members. Sir, you might remember that, two days ago, an adjournment motion was sought to be moved in this House regarding the hunger-strike of some prisoners in the Cannanore Jail. I wish to inform the House that the hunger-strike was given up on the afternoon of 21st July 1952, a few days before the adjournment motion was tabled here. It was also stated that the prisoners resorted to fast in order to get certain amenities in regard to food, etc. But I wish to inform the House that their demand was for the release of some of the prisoners. I may tell the House that some of these prisoners have been convicted and sentenced to long terms of imprisonment for very grave crimes against life and property. I am glad that hon. Members are taking interest in the administration of jails. Sir, it gives me pain to say that it was not a fast, but it was a farce. I would request the hon. Members to extend their co-operation to me so that I could attend to all the demands of the prisoners irrespective of the party to which they owe allegiance. I would like to assure the House that I would try my level best to see that all the disabilities they are suffering from are removed subject to the prevailing rules and maintenance of discipline.

"With these words, Sir, I move the Demand."

26th July 1952]

MR. SPEAKER :—“ Motion moved—

‘ That the Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,23,56,000 under Demand XIII—Jails.’

“ The hon. Member, Mr. M. Kalyanasundaram, will move the cut motion. He can sit and speak.”

* SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM :—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move—

‘ That the allotment of Rs. 1,23,56,000 under Demand XIII—Jails, be reduced by Rs. 100.’

Sir, I have been in jail till recently and have an intimate knowledge of the jail administration. When I was hearing the Hon. the Minister for Law, I was wondering whether most of the things he said related to the jails in our State. This Demand is too much.

4-40
p.m.

“ Already this House has sanctioned nearly seven crores of rupees for the Police. Another Demand for Justice will come up shortly for Rs. 1½ crores. In my opinion these three Demands should be taken together for consideration. The Jails, Police and Justice are said to be instruments for maintaining law and order. If this Government demands nearly ten crores of rupees for maintaining law and order, I should think it is really very costly. Why should they require so much for maintaining law and order? What is the order that they want to preserve and continue? I think it is only to dehumanize a vast majority of the population that this Demand is made. While opposing this Demand, let me not be mistaken as though I am in support of crimes being committed. I deprecate, as strongly as every hon. Member on the Ministerialist Benches, every kind of crime. After all, how do these crimes originate? It is because of the existing social organization of our society. People are not really intent on committing crimes. They are driven to do so because of their appalling poverty.

“ Are the Government really interested in reforming the jail administration? Let them first turn their attention to tackle the problem of landless labourers in our country-side and growing unemployment. It is they, who out of poverty become convicts later on. Let their lot be improved first and foremost. That apart, if the Government are anxious to bring about reforms in the jail administration, they will first of all have to make certain radical changes in the existing rules. At present a lot of discrimination exists in regard to scales of pay of those working in Jail department. The jail warders, in whose hands the lives of lakhs of prisoners lie, should be given higher salaries. At present the sort of life they are leading is worse than that of the prisoners themselves. I shall refer to some figures. There are at present 1,800 jail warders. Of them, as many as 635 are temporary men who could be discharged within twenty-four hours' notice. Some of them have put in nearly ten years of service. They should be confirmed so that they may have a sense of security about their jobs and do their work more diligently. Also, the number of

[Sri M. Kalyanasundaram] [26th July 1952]

warders should be increased. Their present strength is not enough to cope with the large increase in the number of prisoners in our State. Also the hours of work for the warders should be strictly limited to eight only. Even though the rules at present limit their work only to eight hours a day, in practice it is not adhered to. The poor warders at present work longer hours with no consequent over-time benefit. At present there is no provision for maintaining sufficient leave reserve. Consequently many of them are not able to take earned leave. Rules relating to leave should be liberalized in the case of warders.

"As regards housing these warders, I want to submit that, at present, they are put to a lot of suffering because the Government have not provided all of them with quarters. They are given a paucy allowance of four rupees. In reality these poor warders have to pay from ten to fifteen rupees even for a small portion. We know now in the City we suffer from lack of accommodation. Here the subordinate officials are paid about ten rupees as house-rent allowance. The house allowance of the warders should be increased or the Government should come forward to build quarters for them. Here, I want to bring to the notice of the House that Superintendents of Jails are paid house allowance equal to the amount they pay as rent. Even though the rent that they pay, may come to hundred rupees a month, the Government pay the whole amount. This sort of discrimination between the high and the subordinate officials should be removed immediately. At present the warders are changed from one centre to the other very frequently. This results in undue hardship for them. They are eligible for free railway pass for a trip home once in three years. I suggest this concession may be liberalized, by granting free passage once a year. With regard to dress for the jail warders, at present they are eligible for two sets every year. In practice, they are supplied with only one. This should be rectified. The scales of pay of the warders also should be raised. At present they are on a par with the State Government employees. At least the Central Pay Commission's scales of pay, which are themselves very meagre, should be given to these jail warders."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member has got only one minute more."

* SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM:—"I shall now say a few words about the political prisoners. It has been repeatedly stated by Government that there is at present no class of prisoners called 'political prisoners'. But the fact is that political motive is taken note of, or even imputed while preparing the charge-sheet, and convicting the prisoners. The status of political prisoners is denied in the matter of treatment in jails. For instance, if some villager attacks a police officer, he will be charged under the Indian Penal Code for the offence of interfering with the duties of Government officials, whereas, if a person like me, even uses a violent word against a police officer, he is charged under section 121-A for attempting to overawe the Government by show of criminal force. Again if I talk of Vadapathimangalam and Kunniyur—owning

26th July 1952] [Sri M. Kalyanasundaram]

thousands of acres of land, I am accused under section 153-A of the Indian Penal Code on a charge of trying to infuse class hatred among the different sections of our community. Thus there is a political motive behind the action of the Police over what the Communists say. My submission is that in the matter of treatment inside jail political status must be recognized and political prisoners treated as such."

Mr. SPEAKER:—"I have allotted two hours for this Demand. The Hon. Minister will reply to the debate at about 7 p.m. to-day."

* DR. T. S. SOUNDARAM RAMACHANDRAN :—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to say at the very beginning that even though jails have got to be administered, we should try to find out the causes why people—they do not after all want to go to jail—are made to go to jails. They are made to go to jails because of the various social customs, economic injustice and other adverse factors that are prevailing. Therefore, I would like to say something about this aspect of it and also dwell on the object of running certified schools, vigilance homes and similar institutions which are more or less preventive measures so far as the object of weaning away the people from going to jail is concerned.

4-50
p.m.

(At this stage the Deputy Speaker occupied the Chair.)

"So far as certified schools are concerned, I may point out that it is recognised all over the world that children showing delinquency do not always have a criminal mind; of course they may develop into criminals; but if they are looked after properly and given proper education, some of their anti-social habits will certainly disappear and they will become not only normal citizens but respectable citizens. Let us first find out why some of the children show delinquent tendencies. Some of us have intimate association with such institutions as I have mentioned, as well as with such children. Whether it is the case of a child or a grown-up person, the beginning or the root cause is the home environment. If we make enquiries into the case of each child in the Children's Certified School, it is always found to be unhappy, insecure childhood—which has created the special tendencies in the children's minds, which is responsible for making them become vagrants first, then becoming delinquent because of hunger and because of the feeling that they must live somehow and then developing habits of living in an easy way, trying to avoid any kind of work and finding out methods thereafter of earning money in any manner—which all ends in making them finally regular habitual criminals. As I said, this aspect is recognized all over the world. It is, therefore, our duty to see that the already delinquent children who are the products of unhappy home conditions, do not develop into criminals; it is our duty to educate such delinquent children, give them an opportunity to lead better lives and thereby decrease the number of habitual criminals in the land. Of course there are pathological cases where we cannot do much; I am only thinking of border-line cases. There are other types of children also who are quite normal,

[Dr. T. S. Soundaram Ramachandran] [26th July 1952]

but whose insecurity in childhood—either because they had no father or mother or because the parents were very poor—has led them to beg and wander about, and because of bad association, to become delinquent children. There are provisions which allow admission of these normal children also to the certified schools. There are philanthropic institutions running children's homes and orphanages. They are no doubt very good, but these by themselves do not go a long way to solve the problem. Therefore, my first suggestion is that these normal children who are certified as destitutes should never be sent to either junior or senior certified schools, because the association there is bad for them. I know that even now the Government agree with this view, although in practice it is not acted upon. It is, therefore, necessary that the Government should separate normal destitute children from other children showing delinquency, in the certified schools. Another thing. Government have also recognized the fact that these children will be better off if they are made to mix with normal children with happy home surroundings and happy school surroundings, and that is why they have recognized private institutions for this purpose. I suggest that it will be cheaper for the Government and good for the children themselves if there are more such institutions. If other private institutions also come forward to take charge of these normal destitute children, they should be encouraged. For that matter, I may state that there are orphanages which have a handicap, when we compare their conditions with those of certified schools run by private agencies. The grant given to orphanages is really meagre. If the grant is liberalized, I am sure not only destitute children but many poor children will be cared for in these philanthropic institutions, which will go a long way in giving these children the security which they need so much.

“ When we think of delinquent children, we must admit it is very necessary to have a trained staff to be in charge of them, so that these children may be dealt with psychologically and persuaded to lead a normal life. I know there is a scheme in the proposed Jail reforms, and I hope that the Government—after all we are concerned with our children—and all of us would do our best, so that in future these habitual criminals and the criminal class, as such, will not be on the increase.

“ It is said very often that the mentally backward children develop delinquent tendencies. I do not think we hear anywhere of any arrangements existing for looking after the mentally backward children. I am told that in the Chingleput school there is a section; but I think even outside the certified school boundary, there should be a school for these children, so that the normal, mentally backward children could be seen by their parents now and again.

“ In the matter of running these certified schools for children, for delinquents and mentally backward children, I do not know whether we cannot ask the municipalities and the local boards to take charge of such institutions. We hear that some municipalities are starting beggar homes. Let us start with children to begin

26th July 1952] [Dr. T. S. Soundaram Ramachandran]

with . . . (At this stage the Deputy Speaker sounded the gong.) I request a few more minutes, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I want to say a lot about vigilance work.

“ All hon. Members will agree with me when I say that whether it is a quarrel, a communal clash or the application of police measures, it is the woman who is the first casualty. I know the present conditions; I know what is happening in the villages; I know Police cases; I know where they all end—they end in molesting women. Where are we? The society deals with women in such a way, and yet nobody worries. If women are dragged to the courts, how can we defend ourselves? Once somebody says something about a woman's character, nothing can rectify that. Therefore, a woman rather dies than tell others what has happened to her. In this way, vigilance work has become a vital problem, I would even say a point of national honour for our country. When the Vigilance Act was passed and the Vigilance Home was started in Madras City, we went through the history of hundreds and hundreds of girls who came to our Stri Sadhana and found that 98 per cent of the cases were due to destitution, poverty, or husbands or parents or interested relatives trading on these innocent girls—mostly minor girls. Therefore, it is recognized that vigilance work is very good, and that it is also imperative that there should be such vigilance work. But I submit it has not gone far enough to assure women that it will enable them to lead lives in the proper way. The woman has to be educated; she has to be taught how she can lead a life of economic independence and how to maintain herself respectably. Some of these municipalities have started shelters 5 p.m. but they are not enough. Why do we go to recover these girls from the brothels and put them in the shelter? Why should we not look after the destitute women wandering about and who have been deserted by their husbands or parents? Very often there is no mother to care for them. Why don't we look after and give them a proper place so that we may not drive them to lead a life of prostitution? That is why Service Homes have been started by the Government and some of us are trying to do preventive work so that these innocent women do not become a prey to men and such people who are interested in trading on them. Therefore, I would suggest that Shelter Homes for the rescued women be opened in every municipality. Once we went to Coimbatore. There, sometimes women recovered from brothels were not taken to shelter but were taken to the jail. Do we treat men in that fashion? Why should our women be penalized for a crime for which men are equally responsible? Taking them to jail for such offence must go. There must be a Remand Home everywhere. There must be a Reception Home in the Madras City at least so that any helpless woman who wants protection should be able to go and stay there until her case is investigated. Either she should be restored to her guardian or she should be put in a safe place where she will have facilities of educating herself and standing on her own legs. Sir, in a law court, the accused is always held not guilty till his guilt is proved. Whereas when you recover a girl or a girl comes to you under difficult conditions, she is sent to a Remand Home. She

[Dr. T. S. Soundaram Ramachandran] [26th July 1952]

should not be branded as an immoral woman. She should be taken to a Women's Service Home or—what we call—a Reception Home. There should be Reception Homes to receive any woman stranded anywhere. That must be our ideal. Let us make a beginning in the Madras City so that we can prevent our unfortunate sisters from drifting to brothels.

"Sir, there are very many religious institutions—mutts, temples, etc. These institutions have pots and pots of money and a major portion of that money could be requisitioned for educating the children of our State. They must be given security and then only we can decrease the expenditure under the item 'Jails,' at the same time, we can really do good to the community.

"Now I come to the Jail Reforms Committee. We have talked about many things and suggested some reforms. Some of the reforms could be implemented without waiting.

"One word more. Most of the prisoners in the jails, who are sentenced to less than three months, come from rural areas. They are not given any work, as far as I know. I may be wrong and I am subject to correction. It is natural that most of them come from rural areas as 80 per cent of our people live in rural areas. There is no use teaching them certain work which will not help them to earn their livelihood when they go back to their homes. Agricultural colonies should be started at least in one or two places where these people could be settled."

DEPUTY SPEAKER :—"The hon. Member's time is up. Now, Mr. Ramakrishna Reddi will speak."

* SRI B. RAMAKRISHNA REDDI :—"అధ్యక్షా, ఈ Jail Demand పై ప్రవేశపెట్టబడిన out motion ను 'బలపరచు' జైల్ గురించి కొన్ని విషయములు తెలియజేస్తున్నాను. నేను Press Act క్రింద ఒకప్పుడు, ఒక నెల రోజులు జైలులో ఉండినాను. తరువాత స్వరాజ్యము వచ్చే ముందు ఆనగా 1942 వ సంవత్సరములో గూడా జైలులో ఉండినాను. ఈ రెండు పర్యాయములలో గూడా జైల్లో పరిస్థితులు విమీ మారకుండా ఒకేమాదిరి ఉండినవి. కాని, స్వరాజ్యము వచ్చిన తరువాత, మన పరిపాలనలో వైనా ఈ జైల్లో పరిస్థితులు మారు తామోమనని ఆనుకుంటే ఇప్పటికి పరిస్థితులు యథాప్రకారంగానే ఉన్నాయి. నాటికిని నేటికి పరిస్థితులలో విమీ భేదము కన్పించడంలేదు. స్వరాజ్యము వచ్చిన తరువాత, మన పరిపాలనలో జైల్లో ఖయీదీలకు ఈ దుర్భర పరిస్థితులు తొలగిపోగలవని మేముంటా అధిపాయపడ్డాము. కాని ఇప్పటికికూడ పరిస్థితులు విమీ మారకుండా ఉండడం చాలా శోచనీయంగా ఉన్నది. మేము 1940 వ సంవత్సరములోను, 1942 వ సంవత్సరములోను జైల్లకు పోయినప్పుడు జైల్లో ఉన్నటువంటి దురవస్థలన్నీ అనుభవించాము. అయితే ఈ దుస్థర పరిస్థితులు మన పరిపాలనలో తప్పకుండా పోగలవని ఎంతో ఆశించాము. కాని ఈనాడు పరిస్థితులు యథా ప్రకారంగానే ఉన్నాయంటే చాలా విచారించవలసియున్నది. జైల్లో ఖైదీలయొక్క బ్రతుకు పరిధంగా ఉండో తెప్పవలసినట్లు ఒక మాటలో అందంతా ఒక వరకభూషములాగా ఉండని తెప్పకుతు విమీ సందేహములేదు. అక్కడ ఖైదీలకు ఇస్తూ యుండినటువంటి ఆహారము చూచినట్లయితే, ఉదయముపూట ఒక గంజి మాత్రము ఇస్తున్నారు.

26th July 1952] [Sri B. Ramakrishna Reddi]

తరువాత భోజనములో ఒక పులును తప్ప మరేమీ కన్పించదు. ఈ భోజనమంతా ఒకటిన్నర గాకు మించియుండదు. సాధారణంగా మనము భోజనానికి ఒక రూపాయ, రెండు రూపాయల వరకు ఖర్చు చేస్తూయుండగా, అక్కడ ఫైదీలకు ఒకటిన్నర గా తిండివేస్తున్నారంటే అతిండి ఎటువంటిదో, విప్రకారంగా ఉంటుందో అలాచింతగా వచ్చు. నేను జైల్లో ఇచ్చునట్టివంటి తిండి వివిధంగా ఉంటుందో ప్రత్యేకంగా చూచినాను. దానిలో పురుగులు, మట్టిఉండలు మొదలైనవి గూడా ఉంటాయి. వాళ్ళకు ఇచ్చేటటువంటి ఆహారము ఆ విధంగా చాలా అసహ్యంగా ఉంటుంది. ఫైదీలు ప్రాణాలు కాపాడుకొనేందుకు విధిగా ఆ తిండిని తీసుకోవలసి యుంటుంది. ఇంక, వాళ్ళకు వాడేటటువంటి బియ్యము చూస్తే చాలా హీనరకంగా ఉంటుంది. జైల్ల కంట్రాక్టర్లు, అధికారులు కలిసి, ఈ ఆహార విషయంలో డబ్బు చాలా మిగిల్చు కొంటు ఫైదీలకు ఇటువంటి హీనంగా ఉండేటటువంటి తిండిని ఇస్తుంటారు. ఇవి పరిస్థితులు. ఇటువంటి తిండి తింటూ ఫైదీలు వివిధంగా బ్రతుకగలరో అలాచింత వలసి యుంటుంది. తానైన సభ్యులని చెప్పకొంటున్న మనము మాత్రము ఇక్కడ రోజుకు రూ 12-8-0 లు తినికొంటూ జైల్లో ఫైదీలకు రూ 0-1-6 తిండి పెట్టించుట మనకు ధర్మమేనా, మనము ఇది సహించదగినదేనా అని అందరు అలా చించుకోవలసి యున్నది. స్వరాజ్యము వచ్చిన తరువాత జైల్లోని పరిస్థితులు రాగు పరుస్తాయి, అదిచేస్తాము, ఇదిచేస్తాము అని ప్రజలకు ఎంతో ఆశపెట్టి, ఇప్పుడు స్వరాజ్యము వచ్చినాకూడా మన పరిపాలనలోని పరిస్థితులు ఏమీ మారువడకుండా, యథాప్రకారంగానే ఉన్నాయంటే, స్వరాజ్యము వచ్చి కూడా లాభమేమీ నాకు అర్థం కావడములేదు. మనమంతా ఇంతకుముందు జైల్లోఉండి, అక్కడ ఉన్నటువంటి దుర్భర పరిస్థితులన్నీ ప్రత్యేకంగా చూసి అనుభవించినటువంటి వాళ్ళము అయిఉండి కూడా ఈనాడు మన పరిపాలనలోనైనా ఆ పరిస్థితులను రాగుపరచుకుంటు చాలా విచార కరము.

“తరువాత, ఉరిశిక్ష విధించే విషయంలోకూడా ఈ ఉరిశిక్షను కుదు రివేస్తూ మని చెప్పి, ఇప్పుడు స్వరాజ్యము వచ్చిన తరువాత కూడా దీనిని రివేయకుండా ఉన్నారు. ఈ ఉరిశిక్ష అనేటటువంటిది నిజంగా ఎవరికీ విధించదగినటువంటిదిగాదు. ఇది మహాత్మా జీ సిద్ధాంతానికి కూడా విరుద్ధమైనటువంటిది. నిజంగా కొన్ని కొన్ని murder కేసులలో ఈ murders ఉద్దేశ ఫలితంగా జరుగుతూ ఉంటాయిగాని, అది పనిగా murder చేయాలననే దురుద్దేశంతోగాని, దుర్బుద్ధితోగాని జరగడంలేదు. అటువంటిప్పుడు, వీరికి ఉరిశిక్ష విధించడమంటే న్యాయంగాదు. కనుక ఈ ఉరిశిక్షను మాత్రము ఖచ్చితంగా అంగీకరించాలననే కోరుతున్నాను.

“మరొక విషయ మేమిటంటే, జైల్లో ఫైదీలను వార్డర్లు కత్తి చిన్నదానికి కొడుతూ నానాచాధలు పెడుతూయుంటారు. కూర్చోవుంటే కూర్చోక పోయిన, ఇది ఒక పెద్ద తప్పుగా ఒక పెద్ద నేరంగా తీసుకొని పదిమందివార్డర్లు కలిసి వాళ్ళను కొట్టి వాళ్ళను 3 రోజులు ఒక నరకభూమిలో పెట్టి వానిని పొసేస్తూ యుంటారు. నేను ప్రత్యేకంగా ఈ పొసేసాణడను జైలులో చూశాను. ఒక ఫైదీని కూర్చోమంటే, కూర్చోకుండా నిలబడినందుకు, అతనిని ఆ ప్రకారంగా కొట్టి, 3 రోజులు నరకభూమి మనటువంటి పుడేశంలో పడవేశారు.

“అది అట్లుండగా, ఖయదీలను 2, 3 ఏళ్ళ మొదలుకొని 10 ఏళ్ళ వరకు కూడ జైల్లో అట్లనే పడవేసియుంచుతారు. మధ్యగ విలాటి విశ్రాంతి లేకుండా సంవత్సర

[Sri B. Ramakrishna Reddi] [26th July 1952]

5-10
p.m.

ముల తరబడి వారిని ఆట్లనే జైల్లో ఉంచడం చాలా క్రూరమైనది. వారిని మధ్యన ఎప్పుడైనా ఒక నెల రోజులైనా parole మీద బయటికి విడవడంలేదు. ఖయీదీలకు ఈ విధంగా సంవత్సరముల తరబడి జైల్లో ఉంచినట్లయితే, వాళ్లకు ఎంత కష్టంగా ఉంటుందో ఆలోచించుకోవలసి యుంటుంది. కనుక వారిని మధ్యన ఒక నెల రోజులైనా parole మీద విడిచి పెట్టుట ధర్మంగా ఉంటుంది. గనుక ఆ విధంగా ప్రభుత్వము ఏర్పాటు చేయవలసిన కోరుచున్నాను. ఆసలు జైల్లో వారికి మామూలు ఒక్కొక్క రోజు గడవడమే మహాకష్టంగా యుంటుంది. సాయంత్రం 5 గంటలైనా వారిని cells లోకి వేస్తున్నారు. ఆ cells లో ఏ మాత్రము ventilation లేకుండా మహాకష్టంగా యుంటుంది. తెల్లవారి 8 గంటల వరకు వారు ఆవిధంగా cells లో పడి ఉంచబడియుంటుంది. రాత్రిపూట పండుకోడానికి కూడా చాలాకష్టంగా ఉంటుంది; నిద్రపట్టదు. ఆ ప్రకారంగా రాతంతా, కాలక్షేపము చేయవలసి యుంటుంది. ఇంక మే నెలలో ఆయితే వర్షాలు లేక నిడు చేసివి కాలముగా ఈ cells లో ఉండడం మహాకష్టంగా యుంటుంది. ఏ మాత్రం ఊపిరిఆడదు. పరిస్థితులంతా తల్లికొండులుగా ఉంటాయి. తరువాత అధికారిమునాడేలే వార్డుల్లు త్వరగా ఇంటికి రోవలెనవిజెప్స్ ఖయీదీలను మధ్యాహ్నము మూడుగంటలకే cells లో నడవేస్తారు. ఖయీదీలు ఆ ప్రకారంగా మధ్యాహ్నము మూడు గంటల నుంచి మరుసటి దినము ఉదయం 8 గంటలవరకు cells లో నరకమనుభవించవలసియుంటుంది. ఆ cells లో తూస్తానుంటే కిటికీలుగూడ పుండవు. మూడేమూడు అంగుళాలు వెడల్పు గల holes ఉంటాయి. ఖయీదీలకు ఈ విధంగా ventilation గాని గాలి గాని లేకుండా, పండుకోవడానికి చాలా కష్టంగా యుంటుంది. కనుక ఇటువంటి పద్ధతులన్నీ ప్రభుత్వము తప్పుకుండా తొలగించుటకు ప్రయత్నించవలసిన కోరుచున్నాను. తరువాత ఖయీదీలకు రైచ్చే గుడ్డలు చూచినట్లయితే, వారికి ఒకే ఒక జత గుడ్డలిస్తున్నారు; 3 మాసాలు 6 మాసాలు ఖయీదీలకు గూడ ఒకే ఒక జత గుడ్డలు ఇస్తున్నారు. దానినే దినమునకు వారు ఉతుకుకొంటూ కట్టుకొనవలసివస్తున్నది. కనీసము రెండు జతలైన గుడ్డలిస్తే ఒక విధంగా కొంత ఆనాహులంగా ఉంటుంది. ఆ మాత్రమైన ఇవ్వడంలేదు. తరువాత పండుకోడానికి ఒకే ఒక తొలు ఇస్తున్నారు. ఈ విధంగా ఆన్ని విషయాలలోను వారు చాలా క్రూరంగా నిర్దయగా చూడబడుచున్నారు. మన జరిపాలలో గూడ ఈ విధంగా ప్రజలను బాధించడము ఏ మాత్రము ధర్మంగాదు. కనుక ఇటువంటి పద్ధతులన్నీ తొలగించుటకు ప్రయత్నించవలసిన కోరుచున్నాను.

“తరువాత, ఇంకొక విషయము మనవి చేస్తున్నాను. ఈ ఖయీదీలతో పగులంతా పనికిరాని పనులు చేయించే దానికంటే వారికి కొంత ఉపయోగకరమైనటువంటి తర్ఫీదును విద్యను ఇచ్చేటట్లు చేస్తే చాలా బాగుంటుంది. వారికి ప్రతిదినము classes ఏర్పాటుచేసి నీలి పాఠములు నేర్పి, వారు చేసినటువంటి నేరాలకు మూలకారణము ఏమో గ్రహించి, ఆ మూలకారణాన్ని నిర్మూలించుటకు ప్రయత్నించి ఆ ఉద్దేశంతో వారికి నీతిని, ధర్మాన్ని బోధించి వారిలో ఆ విధంగా మార్పును తీసుకొని రావచ్చును. అంతేకాకుండా వారికి carpentry మొదలైనటువంటి వృత్తులను గూడా నేర్పి వారు బయటకుపోయిన తరువాత రోజుకు 2, 3 రూపాయలు సంపాదించుకొనే శక్తిని కలుగజేసివస్తయితే, వారు మరల ఇలాంటి నేరాలు చేయకుండా న్యాయంగా స్వతంత్రంగా జీవనాధారం సంపాదించుకునేందుకు వీలుంటుంది. కనుక వారితో అనవసరమైన పనులుచేయిస్తూ, అనేక నిర్బంధాలలో వారిని పెట్టేదాని కంటే వారి భవిష్యత్తును ఉపయోగకరమైనటువంటియు, ప్రజలకు, దేశానికి ప్రయోజనకరమైనటువంటియు అయిన విద్యలను జ్ఞానములను, వృత్తిలను వారికి

26th July 1952] [Sri B. Ramakrishna Reddi]

తర్ఫీదుపై ఎంతో చాతుర్యం ఉంది, గనుక ప్రభుత్వము ఇటువంటి వివాదాలు చేయుటకు ప్రయత్నించవలెనని మనవిచేస్తూ నా ఉపన్యాసాన్ని ముగిస్తున్నాను.

* SRI P. SELVARAJ :—“ Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while supporting the motion of the Hon. Minister and thereby approving of the Demand, I deem it my duty to place before the Government certain proposals of improvement to be carried out with respect to jails. Sir, the administration of jails is mainly one of administering the sentence inflicted on the prisoners. In that connexion, it is the duty of the Government to consider what the punishment should be. Now, Sir, with regard to the punishment to be meted out to the prisoners, there are two schools of thought. One school of thought says that prisoners suffer from certain malady and it is due to this psychological defect that they commit crimes and so they should be kindly treated and they should not be made to feel that they are prisoners undergoing imprisonment for the crime they have committed. The second school of thought says that the punishment should be deterrent and, at the same time, preventive in character. For, they say it is human tendency to err, and if a prisoner is allowed to enjoy all the privileges, he is likely to perpetrate that crime again and thus likely to become a second offender. So they say the punishment should be deterrent. Now, Sir, Government must strike a *via media* and find out a solution in the matter of inflicting the punishment. Of course, both theories for the moment look all right. But according to the conditions prevailing in India, I have to suggest that the Government should naturally treat a prisoner as a person suffering from a psychological disorder and give him light punishment; at the same time they should give him, in jail, some comfort and freedom. Sir, jail is an institution wherein Government need not bother about admission or expansion.

“ With regard to the punishment of prisoners, I have to suggest a few reforms. There are several able-bodied prisoners undergoing long terms of imprisonment in many jails. If they are recruited for digging wells, they will be doing a very useful service to the nation. If in the famine-stricken districts of Tirunelveli, Ramanathapuram and Rayalaseema, where there is acute water scarcity and where we indented on the service of the military personnel to dig wells for drinking water and for irrigation, these able-bodied prisoners are recruited and formed into a Well Digging Corps—to give it a grand name—and their services are utilized—we may also give them a decent dress—we will be providing them a good hobby in nation-building services. So I request the Government to make suitable amendments to the law and recruit these people. If this is done they would be, it is needless to say, contributing to food production. History is not without parallel in this. If we go back to the Babylonian and the ancient Roman Empires we find that slave labour was recruited for such works and they contributed their mite to constructing mighty channels and irrigation works. On this point, I would like to say that the Pyramids of Egypt are a standing monument of such labour. It is their labour that has contributed to the glory of the Egyptian Empire.

[Sri P. Selvaraj]

[26th July 1952]

"Another point, which I want to stress in this connexion is that the Discharged Prisoners Aid Society are doing very efficient work within their limited financial resources. That Association annually sends out discharged prisoners with a little finance and some implements to enable them to eke out an honest livelihood. As I said, their funds are limited, and I request Government to give more grants to that society so that they may place sufficient funds in the hands of discharged prisoners to settle down in life in some business. These prisoners should not be made to realize they are prisoners and the society should not be slow to recognize them as human beings, and that they have gone astray on account of some wrong desire. If this is done, much of the crime that is being perpetrated in our country would get decreased. With these words, I close my speech."

*SRI G. SATYANARAYANA :—“ఉపాధ్యక్షా, ఈ దినము సభవారి ఎదురున్న యీ డిమాండును వ్యతిరేకించుచూ, కట్ హాజరును బలపరచుచున్నాను. ఈ రోజున బిస్మి ముఖ్యంగా నేను చూచినటువంటి విషయాలను ప్రభుత్వం దృష్టికి తీసుకొని రావాలి ఉద్దేశ్యముతో నేను ప్రారంభిస్తున్నాను.

“స్వరాజ్యము రాకమునుపు స్వరాజ్యం కోసం పోట్లాడగా, ఆ ఆంగ్ల ప్రభుత్వము నకు వ్యతిరేకముగా జైలుబాదుతున్నామనే కారణంగా మనల్ని జైలులో పెట్టారు. వరాయి ప్రభుత్వం క్రింద అయిదు సంవత్సరాలు జైలు జీవితం గుచిచూచాము. ఆ తర్వాత స్వరాజ్యంవచ్చిన తర్వాత కొత్త ప్రభుత్వంలో, నాలుగు సంవత్సరాలు జైలు జీవితంలో బాధబడుతూ ఆనందించాము. అయితే స్వరాజ్యం వచ్చిన తర్వాత స్వరాజ్యం రాకమునుపు జైలులోవుండే మార్పులేమైనా ఉన్నవా అంటే, ఎట్టి మార్పులు లేక యధావధంగానే వున్నది. అవి రానురాను విచారిత కస్టిమెంట్స్ కి వచ్చినవి. అక్కడ ఉన్నటువంటి ఖైదీలను మానవమాతులుగా చూడక, చాలా హింసగా చూస్తున్నారన్న విషయాన్ని ప్రభుత్వంవారికి తెలియజేస్తే, వారు గమనించుకొని అది మున్నాను. చాలామంది కిక్కులుపడేవారు, అందులో గేలుదగ్గరకుపోయిన తర్వాత, వాళ్లను లోపలికితీసుకొని పోవటానికి, ప్రారంభించిన తర్వాత, ఆసలు మానవులని తలచినట్లు చేయరు. వాళ్లను బాచీలు, బాచీలుగా గేలులోపలికి తీసుకొనివెళ్లి, అక్కడనే గేలుకు దగ్గరగాయున్న యిసుకకములవద్దనే వీరి నందరినీ ఒక ప్రదర్శనం క్రింద చూపిస్తున్నారనినీ, ఒకటో యీ విధానము అంతయు నేను యీసభవారికి చెప్పితే శాసన సభా సాంప్రదాయం ఆత్రును అంటూరో, కాదని అంటూరో నేను చెప్పలేను. అక్కడ వారిందరినీ, బట్టలు పూర్తిగా విప్పదీయించి దిశ ములలతో అక్కడనే వరసగా నిలబెడతారు. తర్వాత ఆ దిశ ములలతోనే లోపలికి తీసుకొని వెళ్తారు. రూపు ప్రకారం చాలా రోట్ల జైల్లో ఒక్కొక్కరికి రెండేసి జతల బట్టలు యిస్తారు గాని వీరికి మాత్రం ఇచ్చించి ఒక చారెడు గుడ్డ. చారెడు అంటే, అందులో ఒక గోచి గుడ్డ తక్కినది ములదుట్టుటకు యిస్తారు. ఇదిగూడా 15 దినములవరకు యిదేగడ్డ కట్టకరెను. ఇటువంటి చిన్న గుడ్డతో పైకి విసిలేకుండా ఎట్టి బాధపడగా ఆలోచించండి. బట్టకొరగలి ఈ విధంగా నుండగా తిండికూడా తీసేకట్టుగా ఉంటున్నది. ఇదేనా ప్రభుత్వం ఖైదీలపట్ల చూపవలసిన ఆదరణ? ఫలానవుకు ఇవ్వటం సుదాసు నుంకో మరోచోటనుండో వి.జి. గానీ, మరెవరికైనా వస్తున్నారని తెలిస్తే అప్పుడు మాత్రం కొత్త బట్టలు యిస్తారు. ఆ వచ్చిన అధికారులు వెళ్లిపోయిన వెంటనే మంచి బట్టలు తీసుకుంటారు. ఇట్టి హాస్థిత్వాలలో యీ ఖైదీల ఎటువంటి

26th July 1952] [Sri G. Satyanarayana]

చాధలు గురిఅవుతున్నారో ఎవరు గుర్తించుచున్నారు? ఇదేవిధంగా జైల్లో వడివణు వంటివాళ్ళను పెట్టుతున్నారంటే విషయం కొంచెము చెప్పడలచాను. వారెవరు పెట్టే అంటే అది పెద్దవిగా పెరిగిన పురుగులు లుకలుకలాడుతూ ఉంటున్నవి. వాటిని గమనించక, ఆ పురుగుల అంటేనే పెట్టుచున్నారు. అట్టి అంటి అంటుకు మనస్సు విలా ఒప్పుతుందో గమనించగోరుతాను. చెప్పకంటే అలకించేవారు లేనందున ఆ అంటినే అంటున్నారు. మరో ప్రజాపృథుత్వం గూడా యిటువంటి పురుగులు లుకలుకలాడుతున్న అంటి పెట్టరు. యిదేనా కాంగ్రెసు ప్రభుత్వము ఫైదీలకు చూపే అదరం. తర్వాత జైలు శిక్ష పరిమితి తీరేలా చేసే ఈ జైలులో భండగానే ఫైదీలకు విజ్ఞాపము బోధ చేయు సౌకర్యాలు కలుగలేయాలని ప్రభుత్వ ము భావోద్దేశమని వైకే చెప్తారు. ఈ జైల్లు విజ్ఞాన కేంద్రాలని చెప్పుతున్నారని, విజ్ఞాపమునకు సావకాశము లేదు. ప్రభుత్వం యీ ఫైదీలు యింటికి తిరిగి వెళ్ళేలా వున వారిని సక్రమ వర్తనలుగా నియంత్రించాలి. వ్యక్తులు నేర్చుకోవాలి. అట్టి పని ఏమీ చేయబడదు. ఇవి విజ్ఞాన కేంద్రాలకు బదులు సరిక కూడా అని చెప్పవలసి పుంబుందనటకు సందేహము లేదు. ఈ సరిక కూడా అని సేంం జైలుకే పేర్ పెట్టవచ్చు. అక్కడ జరిగే విషయాలు కొన్ని తెలుసుకోవాలి. సేంం జైలులో వెనక ఒక incident జరిగింది. దానిని గురించి నేను ఎత్తుకోను. అదన్నీ పాఠాని రాజాజీ అంటాడు. పానీ శ్రీ రాజాజీ ప్రభుత్వం వచ్చిన తర్వాత నేనా, యీ కొత్త జైలు శాఖా మంత్రి వచ్చిన తర్వాత నేనా అక్కడ జైలు పరిస్థితి చూడగా, అంటే, మారలేదనే చెప్పవలసియున్నది. అక్కడున్న జైలు Superintendent ఫైదీలను మనస్థలతో మాట్లాడుతూ మాట్లాడుడు. మాట్లాడి తోటి మాట్లాడుడు. ఆ ఫైదీలను మనస్థలంగా ఎంతకే కేవలము కరువులలో సమానంగా చూస్తాడు. పెద్ద పెద్ద బంధువులు తిట్టుతాడు. ఆ జైలులో వున్న ఆసరాళి, ఆ జైలు చరిత్ర యింతంత అని చెప్పవలెదు. ఆ జైలులోని పరిస్థితులు స్వయముగా వెళ్ళి చూస్తేనే బోధపడగలవు. ఫైదీలు విడుదల అయ్యేప్పుడు వాళ్ళను అనేక అమానుష చర్యలు చేసి వంపుతారు. అవి నేను యిక్కడ వివరించటం కూడా మనస్సు రాకుండుది. అయినా ఒక విషయాన్ని నేను చెప్పడలచాను. ఫైదీలను విడుదల చేసేప్పుడు బట్టలు విప్పదీసి, వాళ్ళ మర్యాదలలో చెయ్యిపెట్టి కెలికే మరి బయటకు వంపుతున్నారు. వాళ్ళ మాటలముద్రై అంతయు శోధించి వంపుతారు. ఈ ఫైదీలైన యిటువంటి దురాచార చర్యలు జరుగుచున్నా? ప్రజాప్రభుత్వమని చెప్పటాని, ఇదేనా ఫైదీలకు చూపించవలసిన అదరం అని నేను ప్రభుత్వమును గట్టిగా అడుగుతున్నాను. కొందరు ఫైదీలను కొట్టుకుంటున్నారా జరుగుచున్నది. ఈ జైలు పరిస్థితులు యే విధంగా నడుచుచున్నవో ఒక కాంగ్రెసు మంత్రి ఆయిననూ విచారించారా! గనుక యీ జైల్ల పరిస్థితులు, అలా, అమానుష చర్యలు ప్రభుత్వం వారి దృష్టిలోనికి తీసుకొని యీ ముప్పునర్యాలు చేసినవారిపైనను, చేయించినవారిపైనను చర్య తీసుకోవాలని ప్రభుత్వమువారిని కోరుతున్నాను. ఇప్పటికైనను యీ జైలు పరిస్థితులు చక్కబరచుతారని నేను అశ్చుతున్నాను.

“ఇవికాకుండా యీ సేంం జైలులో ఇక C Class ఫైదీలు ఉన్నారు. ఈ ఫైదీలవడి చాధలు యింతయని చెప్పడకు వీలులేదు. వాళ్ళ సంభువర్గాని, తల్లి తండ్రులు భార్యకొడుగుని చూడటానికి వీలులేక ఉండవలసివున్న సేంం జైలులో పుండుతున్నారు. తూర్పు గోదావరి, పశ్చిమ గోదావరి, కృష్ణా జిల్లానుండి వాళ్ళు ఎంత దూరమునుండియోవచ్చి interview యిస్తే, ఆ ఫైదీని ఒక బాలరు తడికబద్దకు తీసుకొని వస్తారు. ఆ బాలరు తడికకులెక్కడ ఒక చిన్న రంధ్రములానుంచి యీ ఘోషిల్లు మున్న తలితండ్రులు, భార్యపుత్రాదులలో మాట్లాడుటకు వీలుచేస్తారు. ఈ కొంచెము

26th July 1952] [Sri P. G. Manickam]

வகையில் அவர்களுக்கு சிறையில் வேலைகளைக், கற்றுக்கொடுக்கவேண்டும். இப்பொழுது கூடப் பந்திரி அவர்கள் ஒன்றை தெரிவித்தார்கள். சிறையிலுள்ளவர்களுடைய சிறு குழந்தைகளுக்கு கல்வி வசதி மற்றவர்களுக்கு தொழில் வசதி முதலியன கொடுப்பதற்காகப் பணம் ஒதுக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது என்று தெரிவித்தார். அத்துடன் நான் ஒன்று தெரிவித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன் குடிமைத் தொழில் என்ற முறையிலாவது பறபலவிதமான தொழில்களை அந்த இடத்தில் தாராளமாக ஏற்படுத்தலாம். அநேகமாக தலைமை ஸ்தாபனங்களிலுள்ள ஜெயிலிலிருப்பவர்கள் ஆறு மாதம், ஒரு வருஷம், ஒன்றரை வருஷம், இரண்டு வருஷம் இருக்கக்கூடியவர்களாகத் தான் இருப்பார்கள். அவர்கள் சிறைவாசம் அனுபவித்துவிட்டு வெளியே வரும்போது கைத் தொழிலில் அனுபவமுள்ளவர்களாக வெளியே வரவேண்டும். வெளியில் வந்தவுடன் கனியூடைய வாழ்க்கையை தானே நடத்திக் கொள்வதற்கான தொழில் அவனுக்கு அளிக்கப் படுவேண்டும். அவ்விதம் தொழில் கல்வி பயின்று அவன் வெளியே வந்தால் அவனுக்கு கவர்ன்மெண்டு மூலமாகவோ அல்லது கோவாபட்டினம் சொசைட்டி மூலமாகவோ கடன் உதவி செய்து வந்தால் அவன்குறந்த தொழிலில் மறுபடியும் ஈடுபடாமல் ஒரு தொழில் நடத்தி சம்பாதிக்கக்கூடிய நிலைமையிலிருப்பான். ஒரு தொழில் அவன் நடத்துவதற்கு ஏற்றவனவும் இருப்பான். பிற்காலத்தில் இப்படிப்பட்ட ஒரு வேலையான காரியத்தையும் செய்யமாட்டான். அதனால் இந்த சிறையினுடைய கஷ்டமும் கவர்ன்மெண்டிற்கு இருக்காது என்பதை தெரிவித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

“ஹரிஜன வகுப்புக்களிடையே Criminal tribes என்று ஒரு வகுப்பை அழைக்கிறார்கள். அவர்களை கண்காணிப்பதற்கு போலீசுக்கு உத்தரவு இருக்கிறது. அவர்கள் ஒரு தடவை ஜெயிலுக்குப் போனால் பிறகு அவர்களை போலீஸ் கண்காணிக்கவேண்டும் என்ற உத்தரவும் இருக்கிறது. அந்தக் காலத்திலிருந்து இதுவரைக்கும் அவர்களுக்கு சரியான பரிகாரம் செய்து தரப்படவில்லை. தொழில் எதுவும் கற்றுக்கொடுக்கப்படவில்லை. கிராமங்களில் அவர்கள் என்ன செய்கிறார்களென்றால் இரந்து விசை எடுத்தச் சாப்பிடுவதைத் தவிர வேறு தொழில் கிடையாது அவர்களுக்கு. ஆகவே, இந்த Criminal tribes என்ற பெயர் எடுக்கப்படவேண்டும். அவர்கள் ஹரிஜன வகுப்பைச் சேர்ந்தவர்களாதலால் கைத்தொழில் முறையையும் கல்வியையும் அவசியம் அவர்களுக்கு அளிக்கப்படவேண்டும் என்பதை நான் தெரிவித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

“சிறையில் பெருமாலும் ஏழைகள்தானிருக்கின்றார்கள். அவர்கள் பட்டியில்லாத மக்களாகவும் புகுத்திவிட இல்லாத மக்களாகவும் இருக்கின்றார்கள். ஆகையால் அவர்களுக்கு சிறையில் நியாயமான பரிகாரம் தேடிக் கொடுக்கவேண்டும். அதற்கு வேண்டிய சாதனைய அளிப்பது ரொப்பவும் நல்லது என்பதைத் தெரிவித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். ஜெயிலில் அவர்களுக்கு நடப்படிப்பிற்கான பொதுக்கூடங்கள் நடைபெற்றால் அதைக் கொண்டு அவர்கள் சீர்திருந்துவதற்கு வழிபெற்றபடும் என்பதைத் தெரிவித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். இரண்டாவதாக சிறையிலுள்ள அதிகாரிகள் பட்சபாதகமில்லாமல் நடந்துகொள்ளவேண்டும். தண்டனை அடைந்து வந்தவர்களை சீர்திருத்தம் செய்வதற்கான நோக்கம் அந்த அதிகாரிகளுக்கும் நமது கவர்ன்மெண்டுக்கும் இருக்கவேண்டும். தண்டனைப்பட்டு அங்கு வருகின்றவர்களை சீர்திருத்தம் செய்து அவர்களை உலகத்திற்கு நன்மையைச் செய்து கொடுக்கக்கூடியவர்களாக வெளியே வருவதற்கு கவர்ன்மெண்டு சாதனைகளைச் செய்யவேண்டும். இந்த விஷயங்களில் சர்க்கார் சிரத்தை எடுத்துக் கொண்டு அதற்கு வேண்டிய சாதனைகளைச் செய்யும்படியாகக் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன் அரசாங்கத்தின் நோக்கம் எப்படி இருக்கவேண்டுமென்றால் அரசாங்கத்தின் அதிகாரிகள் சிறையிலுள்ளவர்களை சீர்திருத்தம் ஒரு முக்கியமான நோக்கமுள்ளவர்களாக இருக்கவேண்டும். முதலாவதாக அதிகாரிகள் மற்றவர்களை சீர்திருத்தம் செய்கக்கூடிய குணங்களை உள்ளவர்களாக இருக்கவேண்டும். ஏழைகளுக்கு நன்மை செய்வதற்கு ஊக்கமுள்ளவர்களுக்கவேண்டும். அவர்களுடைய வாழ்க்கைக்குக் கொடுக்கும் சம்பளத்தை அதிக வருமானம் சம்பாதிப்பதற்கு சாதனமாக வைத்துக்கொள்ளாமல், அவ்வித நோக்கம் அவர்களுக்கு இருந்தால் அந்வே அதை மறந்து

26th July 1952] [Sri K. Madhavan Nambiar]

യിട്ടുണ്ട്. അവയെല്ലാം സി. ഏജൻസികളിൽനിന്നു രീക്ഷയും മേൽനോട്ടം സംസ്ഥാനത്തു കാർമ്മികളെപ്പറ്റിയ ഒരു സ്ഥിതിവിവരക്കണക്കും അവിടെ എന്നു കാണാൻ സാധിക്കും. അതു ഡോയെ മേറ്റർ ശിക്ഷിച്ചു ഒരു ജെയിലിൽ പഠിക്കുന്നു. ഏജൻസികളിൽനിന്നുവേണ്ടി ഉൾപ്പെടെയുള്ളവർക്കു ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടുകൊള്ളുന്നു. ഇന്നത്തെ ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ അതിനുള്ള സാദ്ധ്യതകൾ കാണുന്നില്ല. മേൽപ്പറഞ്ഞ ജെയിലിൽ പഠിക്കുന്നു. നട്ടപ്പാക്കുന്നതിന്നും, ജെയിൽ പള്ളികൾക്കു കൂടുതൽ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസവും ചികിത്സാസൗകര്യങ്ങളും മറ്റും നൽകുന്നതിന്നു മേൽപ്പറഞ്ഞ വകയ്യന്തത്തിലായി ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ കാണുന്നില്ല. വലിയ ഗവണ്മെന്റു ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ശമ്പളം വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുവാൻപോലെ, ജെയിലിലുള്ള ചെറിയ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ശമ്പളം വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കേണ്ട യാതൊരു പദ്ധതിയും അതിൽ കാണുന്നില്ല. ഇരുപത്തിനാലു മണിക്കൂറും ജോലി ചെയ്യുന്ന പാർപ്പാർക്കു ശമ്പളം വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. അങ്ങിനെ ജെയിലിലുള്ള ഇന്നത്തെ പരിതഃസ്ഥിതി മറ്റിരിക്കാണ്ടു ഒരു പുതിയ അടിസ്ഥാനത്തിലുള്ള ജയിൽ പഠിക്കുന്നു. വരുത്തലെന്നു എന്നു അപകടിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു ഞാൻ എന്റെ പ്രസംഗം ചുരുക്കുന്നു.

* SRI E. K. SANKARA VARMA RAJA :—" Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Demand XIII—Jails. After hearing the statement made by the Hon. Minister in charge of the Jail Administration, somehow or other, I feel that I would like to go inside a jail once again to enjoy the facilities provided by the Government, simply as a test. Sir, I had occasions to be inside prisons for two and a half years and my experience in the past has been that if a pious man had unfortunately to be imprisoned and stayed in a jail for three or four months he would come out as a very bad rogue. After I had heard the Hon. Minister's statement and the nature of facilities that are now given to the prisoners, I am very much satisfied about the administration of jails by our Government. Most of the prisoners in those days were ill-treated probably due to foreign domination. But, even now I have heard from some of my hon. Friends that prisoners are being ill-treated by the jail officials. I would request the Government to see to it that there is no feeling in the minds of the prisoners that they are inside a jail. Very good treatment should be given to them and they must be made as comfortable as possible. In the years 1932-34, the food which was given to us in the jails was so bad that I myself had thrown away my food at the sight of the worms in it. Excepting for what I heard from the Hon. Minister's statement, I do not know the present state of affairs as regards food in the jails. As regards clothes, in those days some of the prisoners were wearing only rags and now the Hon. Minister says that better clothing and better cumbles are given to the prisoners. I now hear that facilities are given to all the prisoners for entertainment and study. Books and newspapers are also supplied to the prisoners. It is very good to hear of these things.

" Then, Sir, I would submit that the tendency of every man is not to go to a prison but men are forced inside a prison due to extraneous circumstances. They steal simply because they are not able to get proper employment. When once they are inside a prison the jail authorities should treat them properly and train them in some craft so that when they come out they will be able to lead a good life.

" Sir, as regards classification, I think that in former days there were three classes of prisoners and the C Class prisoners were the

[Sri E. K. Sankara Varma Raja] [26th July 1952]

most ill-treated by the officers. I hear that now there are only two classes. I am of the opinion that there should be no classification inside the jail. All people who are unfortunate to be sent to jail must be put in one class only and all must be treated alike. I feel, Sir, that this kind of treatment will give the prisoner, when he comes out of the jail, an impetus to make himself a useful citizen because he has been trained in a suitable craft and has been treated well. There will be a feeling created in him that he should not commit any unlawful acts when he is out of the jail. With these words, I support the main motion."

5-50
P.m.

* SRI P. RANGASAMI REDDIAR :—" Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if any Department requires reformation, I think the Jail Department requires it. So far as the Jail administration is concerned, it continues to be the same as it was some years back or as it was even a century ago.

" Jail accommodation in almost all the jails is insufficient. For instance, there is one sub-jail in Tiruchirappalli, constructed, perhaps, during the pre-Victorian days. It is no more wanted. It may be safely closed and the money spent on this jail may be spent on the Central Jail which can easily accommodate a thousand prisoners more. I think the condition of jail accommodation is almost the same in all the other jails in the State.

" As far as the under-trial prisoners are concerned, they are detained for fourteen days or so, in the sub-jail in the mofussal places. At times, police officials approach the Magistrates and get permission for their further detention under the pretext that investigation in cases relating to them is not over. This practice, Sir, is most undesirable and must be put an end to. Nobody should be detained as an under-trial prisoner for more than two or three days.

" Regarding the diet supplied in jails to prisoners, the hon. Member who spoke just before me referred to the conditions prevailing in 1931-33. I can assure him and also the other hon. Members of this House that the condition has become worse now. The diet given is hardly sufficient for the prisoners. Only 8 ounces of rice diet is given. It is desirable that this should be increased to 12 ounces at least.

" So far as medical facilities available for the prisoners inside the jails are concerned, though nothing can be said against the capacity of the doctors employed, I can say that they are the people who lead a most leisurely life and they have practically no work inside the jails. From the reports I hear from prisoners returning from jails and also from the reading of reports published in the newspapers, I think no medical aid is given to any of the prisoners. Sir, for lack of proper medical facilities many prisoners die inside the jails.

" We must all bear in mind that jails are the places where the prisoners should be reformed morally and also in their outlook on life. But unfortunately we find that most of the prisoners, who enter the jails, return highly demoralised.

26th July 1952] [Sri P. Rangasami Reddiar]

" With respect to other matters concerning mismanagement and maladministration of jails, I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Members of this House to two or three incidents that took place in recent years. First, I wish to refer to the most horrible incident that took place on 11th February 1950 in the Central Jail, Salem. I think the hon. Member who just spoke before me in Telugu also referred to it. I shall refer to the incident briefly. About 22 prisoners were shot dead inside the jail and about 150 prisoners were injured as a result of shooting. Somewhere in November 1951, the hon. Member, Sri P. Venkateswarlu put an interpellation in the last Assembly whether an enquiry was made by the Government into this incident and, if an enquiry was made, whether the report of that enquiry would be made available to all the Members of the Assembly. The Hon. Minister in charge of Jails then replied that an enquiry was made by an impartial tribunal but that the report would not be made available either to the Members of the Assembly or to the public. If the tribunal had justified the action of the Jail authorities in shooting down 22 prisoners and if the Government also felt that the jail authorities were in the right in shooting down innocent prisoners and seriously injuring a number of them, there was nothing wrong in the Government supplying copies of the report of the Tribunal at least to the Members of the Assembly. It is a matter, Sir, pertaining to the lives of 22 prisoners and also the rights of the prisoners inside the jails. I think the Hon. Minister will consider this aspect of the matter and see that copies of the report of the tribunal are supplied to hon. Members of this House.

" In March 1950 some prisoners were ill-treated in the jail at Saidapet and subsequently they were transferred to Madras Penitentiary. One of them, Mrs. Lakshmi Ammal went on a hunger-strike as a protest against the ill-treatment meted out to the prisoners, for about 24 days. On the 24th day, some attempts were made to feed her forcibly, as a result of which she died. Immediately a strong rumour was circulated that she committed suicide. It passes one's comprehension how this woman, aged about 60, who went on a hunger-strike for about 24 days was able to commit suicide and even that within the precincts of the jail.

" Again in July 1950, one Ramanathan and other prisoners who were detained in Madurai Jail went on strike as a protest against the sentence of death awarded to one Balan, a labour leader of Madurai. This Ramanathan was dragged from his cell, trampled upon by jail warders with booted legs and beaten to death in the presence of other prisoners. So far no enquiry has been made into this atrocious act of the Jail warders of the Madurai Jail. It is high time that the Government look into these matters and order an enquiry into them. It is advisable that the report of the enquiry is made available to all the Members of this House.

" Again, Sir, during 1949-50, there were a number of shooting incidents in Vellore and Cuddalore Jails. As a result of shooting in Cuddalore Jail, four prisoners died. There are innumerable such atrocious incidents which had taken place in the different jails of

[Sri P. Rangasami Reddiar] [26th July 1952]

the State. I should like to ask: is it the purpose of the jail administration to shoot down innocent prisoners and put them to death within the precincts of the jail? Is it in any way sanctioned by criminology? We have to consider whether any person going to such jails and living there for some time would come out with any improvement in his spiritual and moral outlook.

"I think it is also advisable that persons who are convicted and sentenced to undergo imprisonment for short terms below three months should not actually be made to enter any of these jails but should be let on probation for one or two years. If they happen to commit any other offence warranting a conviction during their period of probation, they may also be made to undergo the imprisonment for the period already sentenced for the first offence. This is a matter which the Government should consider.

"As regards the appointment of jail visitors, the Hon. Minister referred to M.L.A. visitors to jails. I do not know whether he means by M.L.A. visitors to jails that all Members of the Legislature are *ex officio* visitors to Jails or that some Members of the Legislature only are appointed as Jail Visitors. I would like to make a respectful suggestion that all the Members of this Honourable House may be made Jail Visitors so that they may get first-hand information about the administration of jails, and be in a position to appraise the Hon. Minister in charge of Jails of the real condition of the jails. It is high time, Sir, that all Members of the Legislature are made Jail Visitors."

6 p.m.

* SRI A. RAMASAMY THEVAR:—"Sir, in supporting the Demand moved by the Hon. Minister for Jails, I wish to say a few words. Fortunately or unfortunately I come from a Criminal Tribe. I want to confine my remarks to the Tiruchirappalli Central Jail. Since I am an Honorary Visitor to that jail, I know something about it. First of all, I would like to bring to the notice of the Government that the cooking utensils in that jail are made of iron. In one of its meetings, the Jail Committee resolved to replace them by copper vessels on the ground that the use of iron utensils was injurious to health.

"For Muslim and Christian prisoners in the jail, there are priests. Christian missionaries come and preach on every Sunday. But there is no priest for Hindu prisoners. I request the Government to appoint priests to preach good things to the Hindu prisoners at least once in a fortnight so that the prisoners might imbibe the good teachings and get themselves reformed.

"My community people are classified as a Criminal Tribe. They are spread all over from South Arcot right up to Cape Comorin. There is only one reclamation scheme, the Kallar Reclamation Scheme at Usilampatti, for them. I submit that this is quite insufficient. My humble suggestion to the Government is that they must start five or six more reclamation schemes, especially in Tanjore, Ramanathapuram, Madurai and Tirunelveli, and the Government know full well that the Criminal Tribes are very poor and backward. Ninety-nine per cent of them are agricultural people.

26th July 1952] [Sri A. Ramasamy Thēvar]

To wean them away from criminal tendency, Government should immediately open schools to educate them. This is a most important thing which I wish to urge on the Government.

"We read in the newspapers that the Bombay Government have introduced certain jail reforms. During the regime of our Hon. Chief Minister Sri C. Rajagopalachariar, steps must be taken to provide more amenities to, and ameliorate the conditions of, discharged prisoners. I hope he will certainly do it because it is in the best interest of my community people. There is a Discharged Prisoners Aid Society in Tiruchirappalli. That Society has employed some officers to help discharged prisoners. The Government should see that more such officers are appointed.

"Several Members made suggestions to improve the condition of political prisoners as well as detenus. The hon. Member Mr. M. Kalyanasundaram wanted certain steps to be taken to improve the condition of warders and other jail staff. I request the Government to bear those suggestions in mind and implement them as far as possible.

"In conclusion, I request the Hon. Minister for Jails to pay a visit to the Tiruchirappalli Central Jail and satisfy himself about the need for implementing the suggestions that I made in the beginning of my speech."

* SRI K. KRISHNA RAO :—"Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a common place axiom that a man is innocent until he is found guilty by law. This axiom in Indian parlance has come to mean this; that a man is innocent so long as the police say that he is not guilty. That is the real situation in India. Once a man is charged by the Police, he is arrested and produced before a Magistrate. From that moment, he is treated as a convict. He is made to stand before the Magistrate. Automatically the Magistrate gives remand. We are made to believe that all of us are Indians. The British mentality is still here. We feel that we are sinners and, therefore, we are fit for jail life.

"Under-trial prisoners are supposed to be treated on a different footing from the ordinary prisoners. But they are treated in almost the same way as convict prisoners. This is the position. There are different rules for under-trial prisoners and convict prisoners. But the rules are there only for being paraded before the Assembly Members.

"There is another trick that we have been witnessing from 1948 and that is there is one set of rules for those prisoners who are dubbed as Communists and another set of rules for the other prisoners. I know as a matter of fact, and many of the jail officials have told me, that if a man is put in jail and he is dubbed as a Communist or Communist-sympathiser—and the Government may borrow from America expressions like Communist fellow-traveller—he is made the target of special harassment. Mr. Kalyanasundaram was telling us that dehumanising process was the one thing in which Indian jail officialdom had specialized. The jail officials are autocratic, they want to provoke and they want to make the prisoners

[Sri K. Krishna Rao]

[26th July 1952]

feel that they are slaves. A prisoner must put up with it and that is loyalty, that is goodness! I submit that it is the height of badness. Goodness is the love of democracy and love of liberty. It is precisely for that love that people are put in jail. After the lapse of a certain time, the Preventive Detention Act became very unpopular. The Judges got a number of *habeas corpus* applications, and in certain cases they held that the detention was not justified and ordered the release of the detenues.

"The police have a big list of starred suspects, X with one star, Y with two stars and so on. Probably the District Superintendent of Police gets intimation from the Secretariat. A person may be absolutely innocent. He may be sleeping or sick and yet he is arrested. The point is that instructions are issued from the Centre to arrest a person because they think that he is not a political slave of the ruling party. He is simply dragged to the police station, put in the lock-up and produced before a magistrate who orders 14 days' remand, again another 14 days' remand and rejects the bail application. In the meantime, he is subjected to severe harassment and told: 'Why don't you say that you are not connected with the Communist Party?' The District Collector has promised me that he would release you if you give such an undertaking. These demoralising things should stop. Are the Government manufacturing men or slaves, I ask.

10
P.m.

"I think it is Mr. Bhashyam who said that people were kept in sub-jails just like wild animals in the circus cage. They are just allowed to go out for food. At other times they are kept in the lock-up. I ask the Government 'why don't you open a big circus and issue one anna tickets to the public; you will then get a lot of money' I ask, Sir, are not the Government ashamed to do all these things? Are they not ashamed to keep these political prisoners, who are cultured, in lock-up for twenty-four hours and then come and say that they are giving very good treatment? Whom are the Government going to satisfy?

"The ordinary prisoners have got a number of grievances. When political prisoners go to a Central Jail, the ordinary prisoners think that there is a great relief on account of these political prisoners there. If there are no political prisoners, the life of the ordinary prisoners would be hellish. On every Friday all these ordinary prisoners are required to stand before the Superintendent of the Jail to represent any grievances. If any one dares to say anything, for example, *Pulusu* contains worms or that there is a greater percentage of stone in the rice, immediately the fellow gets a thrashing. Therefore, I say, Sir, that if the Government want good administration in jails, they must have elected committees to supervise the work there, though the jail officers will be responsible for the administration. I am saying this very seriously. Most of our friends think that prisoners are not men. Congressmen themselves were prisoners once. Perhaps the Government of the day then thought that prisoners were not men. Prisoners are prisoners to-day because in many cases they cannot engage very good advocates for a good fee. That is one reason. The other reason is

26th July 1952]

[Sri K. Krishna Rao]

many of them are poor. Jail is the worst unemployment relief in India. The temples do not provide unemployment relief. The Churches do not provide unemployment relief. The Government do not provide unemployment relief. I think the only unemployment relief is the jail. I have seen a number of men coming to the jail again. I asked them 'why did you come again?' They said 'it is a good place to live in'. The jail official said 'the worst beating has not had any effect on you; do you think that this is a *chatram*?' There is an impression prevailing among the poor people that a jail is a *chatram* for them. In fact, it is the refuge of the unemployed. Let not Government forget that it is the tragedy of Indian life that our jails are made the refuge of the unemployed. Let the Government have a human administration and a democratic administration. That is precisely what we want.

"For the work of the Tungabhadra Project, convict labour is used. Convict labour is used for works which require free labour. The Tungabhadra Project requires free labour. The prisoners are utilized for the work of the Tungabhadra Project just perhaps to enrich the contractors. Convict labour is had for a song, whereas free labour will cost Rs. 1-8-0 or so per day per head. What I say is, there should be absolutely no question of convict labour being used for work which requires free labour. Convict labour is not labour but forced labour. There is no point in hon. Members opposite saying that there is forced labour prevailing in the Soviet Union. They have it here in India. Let the Government first set their house in order, and see that convict labour is not used for work outside the jail premises. In regard to work inside the jail itself, the Government should pay them wages at the ordinary rates. Let not prisons be made engines of oppression against other parties. Most of us know that the old order still continues. Bad orders do not go away unless they are removed. Snakes do not die unless they are beaten with a stick. Even General Dyer said that he wanted to teach people a lesson. The Hon. Mr. Rajagopalachari wants to teach people a lesson. He is teaching them a lesson in maintaining law and order. The very same old things are there. Old things do not go away so easily. That is why I say that these things should be revised. I want a free atmosphere to prevail, Sir."

* SRI K. RAJAGOPALA RAO :—“ ఆధ్యక్షా మొట్టమొదటిగా కోరిక తెల్పా

నాన్ని బలపరుస్తూ జైల్ల శాఖామన్యులను ఒక్క. ముఖ్యవిషయమే హెచ్చరిస్తున్నాను. ఈ శాఖ మలబారు జిల్లావారైన మంత్రిగారికి వారసత్వముగా వచ్చినప్పటికీ గత ఆయిదు సంవత్సరములుగా ఈ శాఖ పరిపాలనను నిర్వహించిన శ్రీ మాధవమీనగారివలె శ్రీ కుటికల్ నాయరుగారు ప్రవర్తించవద్దని కోరుతున్నాను గత ఆయిదేళ్లలో ఈ శాఖలో ఎక్కా దుస్సాన్నికదాయములు ప్రవేశపెట్టబడినవి. తప్పనిసరిగా జైల్ల సేరస్తులను మానవులుగా చేయుటకు బద్ధులు మరింత హిసస్థితికి దిగజూర్చుతున్నాయి. జైల్లలోని ఖైదీలను అధికారులు తప్పచాయలుగా మాత్రమే చూస్తున్నారని మానవులుగా చూడడంలేదు. ఇటువంటి దుష్కరిపాలన జరగటానికి ఆనాటిమంత్రిగారు చాలావరకు బాధ్యుని చెప్పవలసిఉంది. కాబట్టి శ్రీ మాధవమీనగారి అడుగుజాడులలో నడువ

[Sri K. Rajagopala Rao]

[26th July 1952]

వద్దని జైళ్లశాఖమంత్రిగారిని ఒకటికి పదిపూర్లు హెచ్చరిస్తున్నాను. జైళ్లపరిపాలనలో సంస్కరణలు కావాలని ఎంతోకాలంగా కోరుతున్నాను. ఈ విషయమై విర్యాలు చేయబడిన కమిటీవారు సమర్పించిన రిపోర్టులోని సూచనలను వెంటనే అమలుపరచ వలసినదని కోరుచున్నాను. సంస్కరణలను అమలుజరిపేలోపల ప్రస్తుతం అమలులో ఉన్న శాసనాన్ని సరళమంగా అమలుజరిపే ఖైదీలను మానవహృదయంగా చూచే విర్యాలు చేయగోరూను.

“జైళ్లలో ఈ నాడు ఖైదీలను ఎంత అమానుషంగా చూస్తున్నారో మనవి చేస్తాను. మానవులయొక్క శ్రమశక్తిని సద్వినియోగంచేయడమనేవిషయం ఈ జైలు అధికారుల దృష్టిలోనే లేకుండాపోతున్నది. ఏ ఇతరపనిలేదు గనుక, ఖైదీలచేత వీదో ఒక పనిజేయించాలికిదా అనేభావంతోనే పనికల్పించబడుతోందికాని, ఆ పని వల్ల ఉపయోగం ఏమనేవిషయం ఎవరూ ఆలోచించడంలేదు. ఈ సందర్భంలో ఒక సంఘటనను ఉదాహరణగా తెలియజేస్తాను. రాజమండ్రి జైలులో ఒకసారి ఖైదీల చేత పనిచేయించి ఒకగోడ పెట్టించారు. 15 రోజులు అయినతరువాత వల్ల ఖైదీలకు పనిచూపేటానికై ఆ పెట్టించిన గోడనేపడగట్టించారు. మానవుల శ్రమశక్తిని సద్వినియోగంచేసే విధానం ఇదేనా. అని అడుగుతున్నాను. ఈ విషయంలో ఒక్క ఉదాహరణనే మనవిచేశాను. ఇటువంటి సంఘటనలు ఎన్నో జరుగుతున్నాయి. మానవుల శ్రమశక్తిని దుర్వినియోగంచేయడం మాన్పించవలసినదని మంత్రిగారిని కోరుతున్నాను. ఒక మనిషిచేత ఏదెలాపనిచేయించినట్లయితే దానివల్ల సంఘానికి, దేశానికి ఉపయోగం ఉండేటట్లుచూడడం ప్రభుత్వంయొక్క ముఖ్యధర్మం. మానవశ్రమ శక్తికి ఎట్టివిలువఇవ్వకుండా, పశువులవలె చూడటంలాగున వగైరా పనిచేయించడం అమానుషకృత్యమని ప్రభుత్వం గుర్తించగోరూను.

“ఈనాడు ఖైదీలను చూడు ముఖ్యవిషయాలు కాథిస్తున్నాయి. అవి లిండి, గుడ్డ, ఖైదీలుకూడా మానవులేనని భావించకపోవడం. ఈనాడు ముఖ్యవిషయాలలోను ఖైదీలకు సౌకర్యములు కలుగజేయవలసివున్నది. ఖైదీలకు ఈనాడు చాలినంత ఆహారం, గుడ్డలు ఇవ్వబడడంలేదు. వైద్యసదుపాయంలేదు. జబ్బుచేస్తే ఖైదీలకు ఆసుపత్రులలో పరింగనీళ్ళిస్తారుగాని, రోగనివారణపట్ల శ్రద్ధచూపరు. నెలల తరబడి ఖైదీ జబ్బుగాఉన్నా ఆలనావాలనాచూచేవారు ఉండుటలేదు. ఇటువంటి సంఘటనలను నేను కళ్ళారాచూచాను. ఈ విధమైనటువంటి ప్రవర్తనను మానిపించవలసినదని ప్రభుత్వానికి తెలియజేస్తున్నాను. జైలు సూపరింటెండెంటుకాని, జైల్లోకాని, వార్డు గాని ఖైదీలయెడ సహృదయంతో ప్రవర్తించడంలేదు. మానవ మనస్తత్వాన్ని గుర్తించి పరిపాలన సాగించడం ఈ అధికారులలో నానాటికి లోపించిపోతోంది. ఖైదీలగురించి చాలామొరటుగాను, నీచంగాను, హియంగాను మాట్లాడడంవారికి పరిపాటి అయి పోయింది. ఈ దుస్సాంప్రదాయాలను ఎంతత్వరగా తొలగిస్తే అంతమంచిది. ఖైదీలుకూడా మానాభిమానాలు ఉన్న తోటిమానవులేనని గుర్తించుటకు కావలసిన శిక్షణ వారికి ఇప్పించాలి. నాడే ఈ అధికారుల హృదయాలలో మానవ మనస్తత్వం ఏర్పడుతుందని మనవిచేస్తున్నాను.

6-20
p.m.

“ఈ జైళ్లశాఖలో nepotism (బంధుప్రీతి) కూడా ప్రవేశించుచున్నది. విచనపోయిన వంత్రిగారికొడుకుతో లేక కాంగ్రెస్ M.L.A. గారి అల్లుడితో ఈ శాఖలోనియమించి వారికి తొందరగా ప్రమాక్షలు ఇవ్వడంజరుగుతోంది. వీరు చక్కచక్కా సూపరింటెండెంటులు అయిపోతున్నారు. ఇటువంటి పక్షపాత విధానం వల్ల జైళ్లు రాజీయ కక్షలకు కేంద్రాలుగా మారిపోవడానికి అవకాశమయింది. అంచేత ఈ విధానాన్ని తిరిగిచూడడానికి ప్రభుత్వం పూనుకోవాలి.

26th July 1952] [Sri K. Rajagopala Rao]

“అలాగే సబ్ జైల్స్ స్థితికూడా చాలా హృదయవిదారకంగా ఉన్నది. ఈ జైల్స్ లో ఎటువంటి సదుపాయాలు కలుగజేయబడటలేదు. ఫైదీలు ఆస్తుడప్పుడు తమ బాధ్యతీర్చిలను చూచుకొనే సదుపాయంకుడా తక్కువ చేయబడుతోంది. వి. ఆయిదు నిమిషాలూ పది నిమిషాలూ తప్ప ఉన్నప్పుడూ ఫైదీలను బంధువులతో మాట్లాడనివ్వడంలేదు. నేను Sub-jail (సబ్ జైలు) లో 14 సంవత్సరాలు ఉన్నాను. అంతే సబ్ జైల్స్ స్థితి నాకు బాగా అనుభవం. ముఖ్యంగా ఫైదీలకు వి. వి సదుపాయాలు కలుగజేయబడవలసిన విషయమే Manual లో స్పష్టంగా నిర్వచించబడి ఉండలేదు. మాన్యుయల్స్ ఉన్నటువంటి కొద్దికంటే సదుపాయాలకు కూడా ఫైదీలు ఉద్యోగుల దయాదాక్షిణ్యాలమీద ఆధారపడి ఉండవలసివుంది. అందుచేత ఈ సబ్ జైలు మాన్యుయల్స్ ని తిప్పివేయాలి.”

“Sub-Jails లో ఫైదీలను 24 గంటలకాలం నిర్బంధించడం చాలా అన్యాయం. 24 గంటలూ lock up లో ఉంచడంపట్ల క్రైడిమానసిక స్థితి ఎలా ఉంటుందో గమనించవలసిన కోరుతున్నాను. Sub-jails ను re model చేయించాలి. గాలి, వెలుగు ఉండేటట్లుగాను, నీళ్లు పోయే సదుపాయాలతోను ఈ గదులను నిర్మించాలి. 24 గంటలూ ఫైదీలను lock-up లో ఉంచే పద్ధతిని రద్దుచేయాలి. బాహ్య ప్రపంచంలో వారికి అసలే సంబంధం లేకుండా చేయడం అన్యాయం.

“ఇక ఈనాడు క్రైడిమి వీడిలకో సుపడే లొపుతాయం విషయంకూడా ప్రభుత్వం గమనించాలి. వీడిలకోసం వారు తీసుకొని, రొట్టె ముక్కను, ఉడక మనాభి మానాలను ఆహ్వానిస్తున్నారు. ఈనాడు జైల్స్ లో ఉన్నది వీడిలకో శిక్ష మేని మనవి చేస్తున్నాను. ఈ విషయం ప్రధానమంత్రి రాజగోపాలాచారికి, జైల్స్ మంత్రి కుట్టి కృష్ణ నాయుడుగారికి తెలియజేయబడింది కాదు. కాట్టి వారికి వీడిలను ఇకముందు లీగల్ గా allow చేయించాలి. ఫైదీలచేత జైల్స్ లో పనిచేయించి వారి శ్రమకే కిక్ తగినట్లుగా కూలి ఇప్పించవలసివదిగా కోరుతున్నాను. ఈ విషయంలో బొంబాయి ప్రభుత్వం ఏర్పాటు చేసిన జైల్స్ సంస్కరణల కమిటీవారు చేసిన సూచనలను చక్కగా ఉన్నట్లు కనిపిస్తుంది. వాటిని మన రాష్ట్రంలో కూడా అమలుచేయవలసివదిని కోరుతున్నాను. జైల్స్ లో క్రైడిమి కాంటీన్లు ఏర్పాటుచేసుకోవటానికి అవకాశం కలుగజేయాలి. వారు పనిచేసే సందర్భాల్లో ఉన్నప్పుడు, కాఫీ, ట్రాగటానికి, టీ ట్రాగటానికి, వీడిలకొను కొనుటానికి, ఇతర తినబడరాని కొనుక్కోవటానికి ఫైదీలకు సౌకర్యం కలుగజేయాలి. అదేవిధంగా వ్యవసాయ పద్ధతులకూడా వారికి నేర్పాలి. ఈ వృత్తులు వారికి నేర్పించడంపట్ల ఫైదునుండి విడుదల అయిన తరువాత వారు చేర్చే వృత్తులు చేసుకొని గౌరవప్రదమైన జీవితం గడవటానికి అవకాశం కలుగుతుందని మనవిచేస్తున్నాను.

“యావజ్జీవ ఫైదీల విషయంలో కొంత ఉదాహరణగా ఉండగోరాను. వారికి ఆస్తుడప్పుడు బాహ్య ప్రపంచంలో సంబంధం కలుగ చేయటానికి అవకాశాలు కలుగజేయాలి. అంతేకాకుండా parole మీద వదలడంలా కూడా ప్రస్తుతమున్న నిబంధనలను కొంత సడలింపాలి. ఈవిధమైన సంస్కరణలను అమలుపరిచినప్పుడు తమ నేరస్థభావాన్ని మార్చుకొని సత్వం వలన అలకర్న కోడానికి సహజపడాలి. ఒకసారి జైలు నుంచి విడుదల కాబడిన ఫైదీ లోని జైలుకుళాకుండా ఉండేట్లు చేయాలి. జైల్స్ లో ఉన్న ఫైదీలలో habitual offenders చాలామంది ఉంటారు. అంతే నేరంచేయడముక్కిలే వృత్తిగా పెట్టుకోకుండుటకు ను, ఫైదీలకు జైల్స్ లో వృత్తులు నేర్పించవలసివదిని కోరుతున్నాను. అంతేకాకుండా క్రైడిమి Jail Manual లోని విషయాలను తెలుపుతూవుండాలి జైలు

[Sri K. Rajagopala Rao]

[26th July 1952]

మాన్యుయల్ ఖైదీలు కావాలన్నప్పుడు సప్లయ్ చేయాలి. Manual ను సవరించాలి. వెంటనే బాంబాయి జైళ్ల సంస్కరణల కమిటీ సూచించిన సంస్కరణలను మన రాష్ట్రంలో అమలుచేయాలని జైళ్ల శాఖాధ్యక్షులను కోరుతూ నేను కోత లిక్కానాన్ని బలపరుస్తున్నాను."

* SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—“ Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the cut motion that has been moved to-day on the floor of this House. According to criminal jurisprudence, the institution of jails has been created for the purpose of punishing the offender. This punishment is usually given by depriving him of his liberty for some period. We used to hear in the good old days that the criminals were subjected to all sorts of tortures and harassments. We used to hear that the criminals were beaten with whips and also were subjected to odd tasks. But now that method of punishing the offender has gone. Mahatma Gandhi said, ‘ If a man commits a crime, it is because it is a kind of disease in him and it is the duty of the society to cure him of that disease and not to punish him. The society must try its utmost to redeem the offender.’ With this idea in mind, our Governments, not only the Madras State Government but also other State Governments, have been working and have implemented this idea to such an extent that the present day criminal is having a very very good time in the Penitentiary in Madras and in other places. This reminds me of a story which I heard the other day. It appears a man was sentenced to a certain period of imprisonment and his mother went to see him while he was in the jail. The mother, on seeing the offender in the jail, began crying and lamenting. But the prisoner said, ‘ Why do you cry? When I was at home, you did not feed me regularly. But look here! I am all right, hale and healthy. At the stroke of the bell, I am fed here. You need not cry.’ Thus he comforted his mother. This story will show how much a prisoner’s life is made comfortable and easy in the jails at present. But we must also take into consideration the fact that in the same jail there are different classes of criminals, criminals who go there for the first time as offenders and also criminals who go there very often since they cannot be cured of this disease. The latter set of persons go there not because they could not get any work outside but because they know that they will have an easy time in the jail. To such persons I would suggest that more deterrent sentences and punishments should be given and that they should not be treated in the same manner as the other ordinary prisoners are treated.

“ Then, Sir, in order to reclaim the prisoners, we must give adult education to such of those prisoners who do not know how to read and write. As some of the hon. Members have said, there must be a human touch in the jail administration. We must go and associate with the prisoners, have long conversations with them and also tell them that if they want to take their rightful place in society, they must behave in such and such a manner and that they are also expected to do their duty by the society. That is how we can reclaim the prisoners.

26th July 1952]

[Sri S. Deivasigamany]

"One other thing, I would like to suggest in this connexion, is this. In olden days, we used to have, what was called, penal colonies. Persons who were sentenced to transportation for life or to imprisonment for a period of more than 10 years would be sent to the Andaman Islands to undergo sentences. I understand that has been abolished now. That was a wholesome way of giving to the prisoner a chance of redeeming himself. It will give an opportunity to those people to work hard during their period of sentence. Afterwards, they will have the satisfaction of owning some lands to fall back upon. That practice can very well be revived. We have got very many islands to which these long-term prisoners can be sent. They may be asked to work on the land and after they serve the period of imprisonment, those lands may be given to them. If this is done, it will enable them to become honourable citizens of the State. These are the few suggestions that I wish to place before the Government. I do not wish to take a long time. I request that the suggestions that I have made or the floor of the House may be taken note of and something may be done in this direction."

6-30
p.m.

* SRI T. C. NARAYANA NAMBIAR :—"Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Minister in his speech after moving the Demand made some reference to the adjournment motion that I moved day before yesterday. It was unfortunate and shocking that the Hon. Minister remarked that the adjournment motion was moved two days after the hunger-strike was withdrawn by the prisoners. He also made a contemptuous remark that it was not a fast but a farce. In all humility, I ask whether the Hon. Minister wants the prisoners to die. Does he want them to continue the hunger-strike and die? It is most unfortunate that a responsible Minister made such a remark when the prisoners had acted reasonably. These prisoners wanted to resort to hunger-strike as a last resort when all other steps had failed with regard to their demands. When that is the case, can they be dubbed as trouble-mongers? Again, when they exhibit their reasonableness by withdrawing the hunger-strike, can be Minister ridicule them in the manner in which he has done just now? Is it fair, I ask. In this connection, I wish to clear certain misunderstanding. It was on the 20th morning that I got a letter from the Office Secretary of the Malabar Communist Party, namely, Kunjurama Nayar. He stated in the letter that a hunger-strike was going to be resorted to by the prisoners. On that evening itself I wrote to the office that somehow they should be advised that they should not go on a hunger-strike for the reason that the Government were contemplating some reforms. I did not get any reply. Day before yesterday, when the motion was ruled out, I approached the Hon. Minister with some of my colleagues. We discussed with the Hon. Minister this matter. He was good enough to give us an assurance that the prisoners' demands will be conceded and the other questions were under the active and sympathetic consideration of the Government. The Hon. Minister also wanted me to send a telegram to the prisoners asking them to withdraw their hunger-strike."

[Sri T. C. Narayana Nambiar] [26th July 1952]

The Minister informed me that it may be mentioned in the telegram that it was sent in consultation with the Minister himself and that their demands will be conceded by the Government. I have got a copy of the telegram which I showed to the Hon. Minister. When I moved the motion day before yesterday, if the Hon. Minister had known that the hunger-strike had already been withdrawn by the prisoners, he ought to have mentioned it on the floor of the House even then. He did not do so. The fact is that he himself did not know it. He has the Government machinery and he can very easily know in no time whether the prisoners have withdrawn the strike or not. When he himself could not know this, how can he expect me to know it? Actually, it is only two hours back that I got a telegram that the hunger-strike had been withdrawn. I feel that the Hon. Minister is not fair in ridiculing the prisoners' withdrawing the strike merely because they have shown some reasonableness. It is he, who wanted me to send a telegram asking the prisoners not to resort to hunger-strike. When that is the case, it is most unfair on his part to have made that unfortunate statement on the floor of this House. I do not wish to dwell on this point too much.

"Now I wish to say a few words about the medical treatment accorded to the prisoners. In his speech, the Hon. Minister said that sufficient care has been taken in the matter and adequate provision has also been made for the medical treatment of the prisoners. In this connection, I have to point out that, in the Budget it is shown that only 62 people, comprising nursing orderlies, temporary compounders and permanent compounders will be attending on the prisoners. Though I cannot give the exact number of prisoners, I can state that there will be roughly 25,000 prisoners. If the Government are going to be satisfied with asking these 62 people to give medical treatment to these prisoners, it means that one compounder or orderly will be attending on 200 prisoners. How can one man attend on 200 people? Are the Government satisfied with this arrangement? Do they consider that this is quite adequate? I have experience of the medical treatment given in prisons, both as a prisoner under Congress rule as well as British rule. The prisoners are not given any medicine at all. They are given only 'water injection.' Whether it be cholera, head-ache or fever or whatever it is, they give only water, in the name of medicine, to these prisoners. This system of giving pure and simple water to the prisoners is still going on. I request the Hon. Minister to look into this matter and do something for the prisoners.

"About education, I think there are only 24 teachers, including four headmasters. One teacher has to teach about 200 prisoners or so. Is this possible? I do not think the Government have applied their mind to this question. The fact that they have not done so is quite obvious when we have a glance at the Budget.

"Regarding the dietary charges, the Government have not taken any steps to improve the diet given to the prisoners. The figures given in the Budget clearly prove this. For the year

26th July 1952] [Sri T. C. Narayana Nambiar]

1950-51, they provided Rs. 28,28,478 under this head, but in the year 1951-52 the figure given under this head was Rs. 28,00,000. This means that no improvement has been made in the diet of the prisoners.

"As regards clothing and bedding, the prisoners are given a pair of clothing for a long number of years. In 1951-52, they provided a sum of Rs. 2,80,000 under this head, but for the current year, viz., 1952-53, the figure given under this item is only Rs. 2,00,000. This also clearly shows that no improvement is going to be made as far as the clothing of the prisoners is concerned.

"While we are on this Demand, I wish to draw the attention of the Hon. Chief Minister and the Hon. Minister for Jails, to an incident connected with the lives of two under-trial prisoners, Ryru Nambiar and Kuttiyappa, in the Cannanore Central Jail, which took place on 4th May or so. I am not going to give the names of the officers involved in this incident, as the Hon. Chief Minister in some other connection was good enough to say that it was better if names of officers were not mentioned on the floor of the House. So I do not want to name these officers.

"The then Circle Inspector of Cannanore went to the jail and made arrangements to take the two prisoners to a village near Kayaralam and they were shot dead at a place called Padikkunnu as was previously arranged for. I am prepared to give evidence and I request the Government in all seriousness to enquire into the matter. If it is proved false, I am prepared to undergo any punishment that may be given to me. That is my submission. 6-40 P.M.

"Then, I shall come to the case of one Mayarath Sankaran. The Hon. the Minister for Jails knows about this case. He was alleged to have been killed and his relatives did not know about his death until after the body was buried by the authorities. Even then, they could not get the dead body. There was a lot of agitation throughout Malabar. Mr. Kelappan, the then K.P.C.C. President also protested to the Government and then only the dead body was exhumed and post-mortem examination made. This kind of 'kumbakonam' also had to be enquired into.

"With these words, I support the cut motion."

DEPUTY SPEAKER:—"I may tell Mr. Nambiar that the word 'kumbakonam' is unparliamentary."

SRI T. C. NARAYANA NAMBIAR:—"I withdraw, Sir. Anyway, I want an enquiry to be made into that case also."

DEPUTY SPEAKER:—"Does the hon. the Leader of the Opposition want to speak on this Demand?"

SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"No, Sir; there is nothing to speak in favour of the Demand."

* THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR:—"Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have heard some of the speeches made by

[Sri K. P. Kuttikrishnan Nair] [26th July 1952]

hon. Members and tried to understand them though they were in languages which are not known to me. Regarding certain allegations about administration of jails—particularly food—I have to say to this House that there is a marked improvement now as compared with the conditions obtaining in the jails in 1942. Charges were made that the conditions today are worse than in 1942. I too had the privilege of going to jail and I know, as a matter of fact, we have made much progress in this field of jail reforms. My only request to hon. Members who take interest in jail reform and the administration of jails is that they must wholeheartedly support me and help me. I have been going to all these jails. So far I have visited five jails at the request of some of the Members and have made personal enquiries. Some of the allegations made on the floor of the House are not borne out by facts mentioned to me by the inmates of jails.

“ In my speech, I made reference to the fast in the Cannanore Jail. It was because I had tried my level best to avert that fast. I was trying my level best to make it possible for the prisoners to be comfortable by removing some of the difficulties these people were suffering from. I know we are free and these people are inside the jails and I know what will be the reaction in the minds of such persons even at the slightest disability that they may suffer. I have submitted my views in this connection. It is also the intention of the Government to reform the prisoner so that when he comes out of the jail, he can be a good citizen of the State. Steps have been taken in all directions to achieve this object. Regarding jail reform, immediately after the publication of the Report of the Jail Reforms Committee, hon. Members will be given an opportunity to make their own suggestions in these matters.

“ Sir, an allegation was made that the Communist prisoners were treated worse than other prisoners. I deny that charge. If at all anything, it is the other prisoners that may have to make a charge that I am giving more amenities to the Communists than are warranted by the jail rules. I have allowed these amenities to be continued because they were enjoying them at the time they were under-trial prisoners. I have not cut them short.

“ As regards under-trial prisoners, we have been making every arrangement to see that they enjoy almost all the amenities that are possible to be given to them under the rules.

“ Coming to sub-jails and other matters, the allegations are all untrue. I am afraid hon. Members are getting information from others and they have no direct knowledge about these things. Perhaps in their sincerity to help prisoners, they are voicing some of these. I have gone to jails and seen things for myself. It may be stated by hon. Members that things are presented by the jail officials in a good fashion when the Minister visits the jails. But I must point out that I was surprised, when I visited the Rajahmundry jail, at the very good treatment given to prisoners there. Some prisoners were taught to sing; some were taught to dance and I enjoyed the sight immensely. I was told that for one or two

26th July 1952] [Sri K. P. Kuttikrishnan Nair]

hours, they were allowed to enjoy in the open without any restraint on their movement. Such amenities are given in all the jails. I have to congratulate the Inspector-General of Prisons on this. He has been taking very great interest in this work and I am sure that he will see that more amenities are given to them and that his subordinates do not tease them. I refer to 'teasing' because, allegations were made by the hon. Members about teasing by the Superintendent of the Salem Jail. I may tell this Hon. House that representations were made to me that the prisoners in Salem Jail might be transferred to the Rajahmundry Jail. I asked the prisoners whether they would be satisfied if the Superintendent of the Salem Jail was transferred. They said that they were not worried about the Superintendent but wanted interviews with their friends and relatives and other amenities. That is why they wanted a transfer. I interviewed them as regards certain alleged disabilities. They had no serious complaints against the Superintendent.

"I understand that it is very difficult to keep discipline inside jails. I have to place before the House the fact that some three days back, the jailor in Cannanore Central Jail was assaulted by a prisoner. So, the jail officials have to take certain precautions for the sake of preserving peace in the jails.

"References were made by the hon. Members to diet supplied in jails. I may tell the House that, when I visited the Bellary Jail, I was amazed at the quality and quantity of food supplied to the prisoners. I took with me the representatives of 'The Hindu', 'The Mail' and the 'Indian Express'. When we returned to the travellers' bungalow, those representatives told me that it was better to live in the jails as the food position there was better. It is freedom that the prisoners treasure most and the lack of that is the 'disability' that they are suffering from. Any disinterested visitor who goes and sees the condition in jails will be convinced that the present arrangement are quite alright. Every facility—whether it is in regard to food or medical treatment—is being given by the State.

(At this stage the Hon. Speaker occupied the Chair.)

"Sir, reference was made to Bombay State and it was said that in the matter of jail administration they have far advanced. I might inform the House that the materials for the reforms there were collected by visiting our jails in the country and studying the experiences of our jail administration. Regarding suggestions to introduce changes in the administration of jails in this State, I have only to submit that these suggestions will be considered when jail reforms are taken up and implemented to the extent necessary.

6-50
p.m.

"A reference was made to the shooting incident in the Salem Jail. The hon. Members of this House know that a committee, presided over by a retired High Court Judge of Madras, was appointed to enquire into the incident. The findings of the Committee were that there was provocation and the allegations made against the officers were not well-founded. The report was not

[Sri K. P. Kuttikrishnan Nair] [26th July 1952]

published because there were some criminal cases pending against some of the prisoners and the publication of the report, it was thought, would prejudice their interests in those cases. A notification was also issued to this effect. The question of publishing the report is under our active consideration and I hope the hon. Members, when they get a copy of the report, can judge for themselves whether the action taken by the Government was justified or not.

“ Then, Sir, references were made to incidents that occurred in jails six or seven years ago. It will not be safe to institute enquiries into those instances now because we may not get proper evidence and it would be unsafe to put innocent persons into trouble.

“ Sir, the hon. Member, Mr. Nambiyar, objected to my remarks regarding the hunger-strike in Cannanore Jail. If only I was asked what was happening there I could have told him all about the incident. He knew I was negotiating for the transfer of the prisoners to the regional jails and an incident like a hunger-strike in any one of the jails would put off the transfer and would be prejudicial to the interests of prisoners who wanted the transfer. My only submission is that he ought to have got the information that they had gone on a hunger-strike and that it was going to be continued, before he tabled the motion. I do not blame him for this. Of course, in his anxiety to do good to the prisoners, he moved the motion. But it was rather unfortunate that he should have done it. Supposing the prisoners had gone again on a hunger-strike, thinking that a motion passed here might obtain their release, what will the hon. Member say then? I may mention here that life sentence has been passed on the person who had gone on hunger-strike. It will not be easy to release him, because, as I said the basis of his fast was the refusal of his claim for release. It is on that ground that he has threatened that he will fast. It will not be possible to review such cases without considering all the other aspects of the question.

“ Sir, I have nothing more to add. I thank the hon. Members for having patiently heard me replying to the various points raised during the debate. I request the whole-hearted co-operation of the hon. Members in the successful administration of the jails and I assure them every complaint would be sympathetically considered and as far as possible the requests made by Members would be attended to.”

MR. SPEAKER :—“ I am now going to put to the vote of the House the cut motion standing in the name of the hon. Member Mr. Kalyanasundaram. The question is—

‘ That the allotment of Rs. 1,23,56,000 under Demand XIII—Jails, be reduced by Rs. 100 ’.”

The cut motion was lost.

26th July 1952]

MR. SPEAKER:—"I shall now put the Demand to the vote of the House. The question is—

'That the Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,23,56,000 under Demand XIII—Jails'."

The Demand was carried and the Grant made.

MR. SPEAKER:—"The Hon. Minister for Rural Development may now move his Demand."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"Are we sitting till 8 o'clock, Sir?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"Yes. If it is the desire of the House to adjourn now, I will adjourn the House. I want to know the views of the Hon. the Chief Minister."

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—"I have nothing to say in the matter, Sir. I am sorry the hon. the Leader of the House is not here now. I leave it to your decision. If it is felt it will not reduce the privileges of the Opposition, I support the adjournment."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"We can continue till 8 o'clock since it is getting cooler now."

(3) DEMAND VII—GENERAL SALES TAX AND OTHER TAXES AND DUTIES.

* THE HON. SRI S. B. P. PATTABHI RAMA RAO:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I move—

'That the Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,55,43,000 under Demand VII—General Sales Tax and Other Taxes and Duties.'

In rising to move this Demand, I wish to say that this Demand relates to General Sales Tax and Other Taxes and Duties which include charges under the Electricity Acts, the Entertainments Tax and the Betting Tax Acts. Hon. Members will notice that demand is being made in the Budget for a sum of Rs. 43-11 lakhs to cover collection charges under Sales Tax. This includes, in addition to the actual establishment itself, and the charges incurred on the Sales Tax Appellate Tribunal which was set up in July 1951. This was established solely for the purpose of ensuring that the merchant community got all the advantages that the law of the country provided for the just disposal of the appeals by a competent judicial body. It has also to be borne in mind that the collection charges do not represent the collection of Sales Tax only. The Department is responsible for the collection of the Entertainments Tax, the Betting Tax, and the Motor Spirit Tax, which bring in a revenue of about 2½ crores of rupees. No separate charge is made for collection under these heads. The Sales Tax has at various times and at various places been referred to as the 'Kamadhenu' of Government and hon. Members will appreciate that this is our